

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME III

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA

April 22, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman
Charles Brower
Rhonda Pitka
Chad Padgett, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Striker, National Park Service
Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Teleconference - 4/22/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'll do an initial roll
8 call this morning. First I'll start with the court
9 reporter, Tina, are you with us?
10
11 REPORTER: I am.
12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Tina.
14
15 I'll start with Fish and Wildlife
16 Service, is Greg Siekaniec on line yet?
17
18 OPERATOR: He is not on line.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. National Park
21 Service, Don Striker.
22
23 MR. STRIKER: Good morning.
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Don.
26 Good to hear you. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene
27 Peltola.
28
29 MR. PELTOLA: Eee.
30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good to hear you Gene.
32 Public member Rhonda Pitka, did you make it with us
33 this morning yet.
34
35 MS. PITKA: Good morning.
36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Rhonda.
38
39 Bureau of Land Management, Chad Padgett
40 with us this morning.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: We don't have Chad yet.
45 Public member Charlie Brower, are you with us Charlie.
46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom, Charlie's
48 going to be a little late today.
49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: He's going to be a
2 little late?

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, he's
5 going to be a little late today, he had something come
6 up and he said he'll chime in when he gets available so
7 we could start without him.

8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. U.S. Forest
10 Service, David Schmid.

11
12 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, good morning, Tom,
13 I'm on.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good to hear you Dave.
16 And, Tony, I hear you're on.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, I'm on.

19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. So essentially
21 waiting for Chad and waiting for Greg to get on, and
22 Charlie we know will be a little late but we have
23 quorum.

24
25 OPERATOR: And this is the Operator, I
26 had received communication that Greg was having a
27 difficult time joining in so I'm going to -- he
28 provided his cell number and I'm going to go ahead and
29 make an outbound call to him and see if we can get him
30 on line.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you,
33 Operator.

34
35 OPERATOR: You're welcome.

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: While we're waiting,
40 too, I'll see if the State of Alaska, Ben Mulligan is
41 on line.

42
43 MR. MULLIGAN: Good morning, the State
44 is here.

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. Ben, we're
47 starting out better than yesterday, that's good.

48
49 I'll go through the Regional Advisory
50

1 Chairs. Don Hernandez.
2
3 OPERATOR: And, excuse me, Greg has
4 joined.
5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Greg.
7
8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Good morning, Tom.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, good to have you
11 on.
12
13 Della Trumble, are you on.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Nanci Lyon, are you on.
18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I'm on.
20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Nanci, good
22 morning.
23
24 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, Alissa Rogers,
25 are you on.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: I heard some rumblings
30 but no voice.
31
32 Jack Reakoff, are you on.
33
34 MR. REAKOFF: Yes, I am, good morning.
35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, good morning,
37 Jack. It looks like your river's going out.
38
39 MR. REAKOFF: The river came -- the
40 side streams started coming in. Now, it's 14 degrees,
41 it was barely above freezing yesterday so everything is
42 starting to freeze back up.
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, a little
45 reprieve.
46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, it's good to slow
48 it down.
49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, no kidding.
2
3 MR. REAKOFF: A lot of the first water
4 that comes down, it goes into the water table, it's got
5 about 600 feet of gravel and it pours into the ground.
6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, at least you want
8 something to soak in.
9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, we have well
11 here, I can tell the table because my pumps aren't
12 working as hard.
13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, we could just
15 hope that it won't be a bad flood year.
16
17 MR. REAKOFF: There's a lot of snow in
18 the Yukon basin, there's a lot of snow at the border,
19 which is more unusual.
20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Well, we'll see. I'll
22 go down my list here. Have a good morning, Jack.
23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Good morning. I'll be on
25 the call.
26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Louis Green.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mike Kramer.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: No Mike. Sue
36 Entsminger.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MR. DOOLITTLE: And last but not least,
41 Gordon Brower.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ken Lord, are you on.
46
47 MR. LORD: Here, yes, Sir.
48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. Good to
50

1 hear you this morning, Ken.

2

3 I'll go back to our Board members, Chad
4 Padgett, are you on?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Could we have Staff
9 email Chad and see if he needs assistance this morning.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 MR. DOOLITTLE: We'll give a few
16 minutes for Mr. Padgett to get on. But barring that we
17 do have a quorum of the Board, which at the discretion
18 of the Chair, would mean that we could do the public
19 comment period, non-agenda item opportunity that we
20 have for the beginning of the day, Tony.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Excuse me, Tom,
23 what was that?

24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: It's that if you decide
26 -- we do have a quorum of the Board, if you decide that
27 you'll wait for Chad and Charlie to chime in, as we get
28 towards the proposals, we do have the public comment
29 period, non-agenda items as the first order of business
30 this morning as an opportunity that we provide at the
31 beginning of each day.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. That's
34 where we'll start off this morning and thank you for
35 that. We'll give them two more minutes, Tom, we'll
36 start at 10 after.

37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So the people
41 on line, if they're on as well, and they're having
42 trouble, just make sure that the public as well as an
43 opportunity as well to get on. So 10 after start, two
44 minutes.

45

46 MR. PADGETT: Hi Tony. Hi Tom. This
47 is Chad, I'm sorry I was having trouble getting in but
48 I'm on now.

49

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good to hear your
2 voice, Chad. Good morning.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There we go.

5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right on. Good
9 morning, everybody. The third day of our Federal
10 Subsistence Board meeting here and welcome everybody
11 back in and glad we're having a little easier time
12 signing on this morning. Good job yesterday to Staff
13 and everybody making it through the portions that we
14 have made it through, we're clipping along pretty
15 decent.

16
17 This morning we start off, like Tom
18 stated, the meeting with the public comment period on
19 non-agenda items. So this is an opportunity that is
20 available at the beginning of each day for the public
21 to speak on non-agenda items directly with the Board.
22 And so with that I will open up the floor. Operator,
23 if there's anybody available please make their lines
24 open and they can speak to the Board.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is, Tom, too, Mr.
30 Chair, if I may.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom, go
33 ahead, you have the floor.

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: I just want to remind
36 the public that to hit star one to get into that cue
37 and take your phone off of mute and that we're looking
38 at about, to be respectful of each other on the phone
39 lines, about 10 minutes to speak.

40
41 Also if people want to know where we're
42 at in the agenda, you can call Tom Kron directly at OSM
43 at 1-800-478-1456, or 907-786-3888, or you can contact
44 and find out where we are on the agenda by getting on
45 line at www.doi.gov/subsistence/board, or on our
46 Facebook page at [Facebook.com/subsistencealaska](https://www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska). And I
47 just wanted to make sure folks knew to hit star one if
48 they need to get into the cue and then the operator can
49 introduce them to the Board.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
4 Siekaniec.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
7 have the floor.

8

9 MR. SIEKANIEC: Hey, Tom. I'm hearing
10 from Carol that she's not in the conference at this
11 point in time, have we not opened all the lines?

12

13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, the way that she
14 can get into the conference to speak is by just
15 punching star one, and if she's having.....

16

17 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, she's not hearing
18 any of the information, any of your introductory
19 remarks or anything.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh.

22

23 MS. WORKER: Tom, it's Suzanne. I'm
24 getting the same message from OSM Staff, from several
25 of them.

26

27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Operator, could
28 we please address that on why -- I would presume that
29 people may just be hearing elevator muzak instead of
30 hearing the meeting, could we address that please.

31

32 OPERATOR: Yes, they are hearing the
33 meeting now.

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
38 Greg, for that. We'll give another minute or two here
39 for the people to chime in.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad
44 with BLM. Could I have the floor for a moment?

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You bet, Chad,
47 go ahead.

48

49 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. So I just

50

1 wanted to provide you some updates. I failed at the
2 beginning when we went through agency updates, I failed
3 to mention something that's fairly important. As some
4 of you may know Casey Burns from BLM has been standing
5 in for us as our subsistence coordinator since the
6 retirement of Dan Sharp, and so Casey's done an
7 excellent job of coming up to speed as quickly as
8 possible as well as getting me up to speed for the
9 meeting so I wanted to recognize him and his efforts,
10 number 1, because he's done a great job with it.
11 Especially not having much exposure. So first thanks
12 to him.

13
14 Secondary. We are close to making a
15 selection for our coordinator position, so I thought
16 that was also important to mention. And once we do
17 that we'll make all the necessary and appropriate
18 announcements.

19
20 And then finally, today, I apologize to
21 everybody, I have to go off line about 11:00 o'clock to
22 handle a couple other briefings and meetings and be
23 back on, hopefully after the lunch break. So Casey
24 will be handling the meetings for me during that
25 interim period.

26
27 So I just want to let you all know that
28 and sorry to take so much time.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Chad. And Tom, did the operator state that the lines
34 were open now?

35
36 MS. WORKER: Tom, I'm getting
37 confirmation from Staff that all is well.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Now, I
40 don't hear Tom.

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Now, you'll hear, it
43 was my mute button.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, now
50

1 we'll get the meeting started, I think we've got
2 everybody on. And the public, I just received a text,
3 one public member wants to speak this morning and he's
4 not able to so if you could open up Lee Wallace's line,
5 he wants to do public testimony this morning, Operator,
6 Mr. Lee Wallace.

7

8 OPERATOR: His line is open.

9

10 MR. WALLACE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 And thank you, FSB Board members, and RAC Chairmen. I
12 just want to make a few comments on non-agenda items.

13

14 I was on Monday and Tuesday and somehow
15 I didn't get to be able to chime in on Tuesday with all
16 the dropped lines and what not.

17

18 So anyway, clearly we're all
19 experiencing an unprecedented event here with Covid-19.
20 the State of Alaska is experiencing a damaged food
21 supply chain. A quick example, on Good Friday, the
22 tribe distributed Easter Food baskets to our 65 Seniors
23 and placing an order through Safeway, they stated they
24 ordered from the Lower 48 and currently back then they
25 were receiving two percent of their order, and so
26 obviously they didn't fill our order, a 90 percent
27 unmet need. Definitely a food security issue for
28 Alaska and especially rural areas.

29

30 OVS supports the FSA20-01, 02, and 03
31 for the Kuskokwim area. Definitely it will reduce the
32 pool of harvesters and we believe that harvesting
33 priority to the rural subsistence harvesters. We're
34 really in very abnormal times and it'll be some time
35 before we get back to normal times, maybe as late as
36 2021.

37

38 I'm going to make quick comment on the
39 Roadless Rule. I thank Don Hernandez for bringing it
40 up on Monday. In March we were to have a government to
41 government consultation with Hubbard and, of course,
42 that got delayed because of Covid-19 and in the
43 afternoon received an email from Hubbard stating he's
44 going to have a tribal consultation on April 28th with
45 the Southeast tribes telephonically. Clearly not the
46 best as a face to face consultation. I think Tony was
47 in the November consultation, and definitely face to
48 face is always better and, of course, all the Board
49 members, I've heard a number of you saying that face to
50

1 face is much better, but we have to deal with what we
2 have to deal with in today's times.

3
4 On Monday OVS submitted a SAR, and also
5 on Monday I heard a number of people talking about SARs
6 and I think you're going to receive a number of SARs in
7 the near future with our current situation. And I want
8 to say that when I was looking at the FSB site, it is
9 quite easy to navigate and pull up the instructions on
10 how to submit a SAR, and immediately after that I went
11 to State of Alaska site and that was really just
12 daunting and there's nothing -- no comparison to what
13 the FSB site had and so, with a number of emails and
14 what not, I was able to get word that I need to make a
15 request to Commissioner, of Fish and Game, to the State
16 and I'll be doing that also to supplement our Federal
17 request.

18
19 I just want to thank the Board and the
20 RACs for all the work they do, you guys do a wonderful
21 job and you guys are tasked to do a very important task
22 for rural subsistence users and harvesters.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 That's all I have.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
29 Wallace. Appreciate you calling in today and speaking
30 on these topics. Any questions or discussions for Mr.
31 Wallace.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
36 thank you, again, Mr. Wallace, for calling in and
37 speaking to those non-agenda items, those are important
38 topics we've heard over the last couple of days and
39 definitely trying to get some energy behind some of
40 those topics, so, thank you.

41
42 Operator, is there any other public on
43 line that would like to speak on non-agenda items?

44
45 OPERATOR: At this point if anybody on
46 the line wants to speak, please press star one at this
47 time. And our first question is Greg Risdahl, your
48 line is open.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
2 floor.

3
4 OPERATOR: And, again, Greg Risdahl,
5 your line is open.

6
7 MR. RISDAHL: Ma'am, I do not have a
8 question. I was calling because I was hearing the
9 elevator muzak earlier.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
14 you, Greg, appreciate you calling in.

15
16 OPERATOR: And our next one is from
17 Joel Jackson, your line is open.

18
19 MR. JACKSON: Good morning. I just
20 wanted to make a comment and I heard that the SAR may
21 be considered during this meeting and I was just
22 calling in to encourage that it be added to the agenda.
23 And it's important, I feel, that we have something in
24 place, You know, you look at the news and the meat
25 plants and chicken plants are being shut down because
26 of the Covid-19 virus. So I got to provide for our
27 community as being the tribal leader. I have to be
28 able to have something in place in case everything just
29 gets shut down. We need to have the food security for
30 our tribal citizens so I'm encouraging you to consider
31 putting this on your agenda today and hopefully get to
32 it on your last day, which I believe is Thursday.

33
34 So thanks again and you guys are doing
35 a great job. I know there's a lot of pressure on you
36 guys and I appreciate your time and efforts and
37 hopefully you all stay safe.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Joel, for calling in, appreciate the comments. Any
43 questions for Joel.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 OPERATOR: Our next question is from
48 Ben Stevens, your line is open.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ben, you have
2 the floor.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 OPERATOR: And, again, Ben Stevens,
7 we're not able to hear you, please check your mute
8 button.

9
10 MR. STEVENS: Can you hear me now?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear,
13 Ben, you're on.

14
15 MR. STEVENS: I'm so sorry, I knew
16 better and in my mind I tracked it through and when it
17 came time I just panicked and I apologize.

18
19 Anyway, Mr. Chairman, members of the
20 Board. I really do appreciate you guys taking the time
21 to hear from the people out there in the state on items
22 that are not so strictly bound to an agenda. What I
23 wanted to mention is that we out here in the listening
24 audience really do appreciate you guys broaching the
25 subject of food security as you did last evening, or
26 yesterday afternoon, a whole bunch of us were out here
27 hoping that you guys were going to take up these SARs,
28 these special action requests that are floating around
29 out there. This is a major, major concern to our
30 people out there on the ground because they don't have
31 the Safeway, they don't have the Fred Meyers. A lot of
32 them have a one room store that shelves go bare on a
33 routine basis. Add to it this pandemic situation and
34 it gets even worse. In fact, we've had entire airlines
35 go bankrupt and are no longer even flying to the
36 villages and that compounds the problem, the food
37 insecurity out there. So I'm really, really glad and
38 I'm encouraged that you guys are taking up the hard
39 tow.

40
41 We did approach the State, Alaska
42 Department of Fish and Game with our concerns, I mean
43 our -- the Tanana Chiefs Conference submitted a request
44 to them to allow some additional hunting opportunity
45 and what we got back was a blatant no. One of the
46 concerns was that they were worried about future
47 harvests of the various hunts out there. And I thought
48 to myself, okay, this is really, really messed up,
49 because we have lost perspective. At one time our

50

1 people out there in Stevens Village on the Yukon used
2 to be able to hunt all year long to feed their
3 families, to put something in that soup pot. They
4 didn't thrash the resources or totally annihilate
5 species, they just got what they needed to feed the
6 family and they did that all year long. Springtime it
7 was birds, so forth. Now, we find ourselves looking at
8 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and they say,
9 okay, well, you have two weeks, not all year, you have
10 two weeks to go get your animal and if you don't, so
11 what. Now, put yourself in that situation, you got two
12 weeks to go to the store, for the rest of the year, and
13 your shelves go absolutely bare, and there's no relief.
14 And so that's what we're looking at Mr. Chairman and
15 members of the Board, we are appealing to you to offer
16 -- to provide us with some type of opportunity to feed
17 our families. Hopefully, one of these days, all of you
18 will be able to experience some of the things that
19 we're dealing with right now. Those folks out there in
20 Holy Cross. Those folks out there in Koyukuk. All the
21 way up the river to the people in Stevens Village,
22 where I'm from, Ft. Yukon. In order to make hard core
23 decisions like this with confidence, it's imperative
24 that you come out and visit us in fish camp.

25
26 And so I would encourage that, but I
27 also want to get back and say thank you very kindly for
28 broaching the subject, Mr. Chairman and members of the
29 Board, that are willing to take on this daunting task
30 of helping us put something in the soup pot. And so I
31 look forward to hearing that and we will be listening
32 in.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
37 Appreciate you calling in today and sharing the
38 concerns of rural residents. Any questions for Ben.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
43 appreciate you taking the time today to call in, Ben.
44 Any other public on line, Operator, that wish to speak
45 this morning on non-agenda items?

46
47 OPERATOR: Yes, we have several. Cody
48 Larson, your line is open.

49
50

1 MR. LARSON: Good morning, thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman and to the Board members, as public
3 servants here, for your service. For the record my
4 name is Cody Larson and I'd like to bring one point of
5 concern to the attention of the Board today.

6
7 This concern is in relation to what
8 could be considered other matters related to the taking
9 of fish and wildlife. In this case, access to fish and
10 wildlife on public lands is a concern. During previous
11 regional RAC meetings, public concerns are voiced over
12 a development activity around the Pebble mineral
13 deposit and the potential for adverse impacts on
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

15
16 So it's a large project but to date
17 there's not been a Title VIII, Section .810 of ANILCA
18 analysis of those potential impacts on Federally-
19 qualified subsistence users. I'd like to point out
20 that in each of the development scenarios reviewed
21 during the draft EIS, the plans including a private
22 road, slurry and natural gas pipeline over the BLM
23 managed ANCSA 17(b) easements, so those are the
24 easements for access for qualified subsistence users,
25 and for public to access Federal public lands, the
26 Federal interest in these lands is in providing access
27 for hunting and fishing and it's not what's considered
28 simple fee, or fee ownership interest, however, there
29 is a provision afforded to the Board to specifically
30 request a review of the potential impacts to Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users in the form of that Title
32 VIII, Section .810 analysis of that project.

33
34 So my request is in the annual report
35 to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture that
36 the Board use the powers and the duties under a
37 regulation 36 CFR 242.10, subsection 4, sub X -- 19,
38 and that the powers and duties afforded with your
39 appointment allow for recommending the inclusion of
40 those BLM managed access, the public land interests,
41 within the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and
42 I think that access to these lands is as important as,
43 you know, the regulations around fish and wildlife. So
44 in this specific instance, I believe that this analysis
45 of potential impacts on subsistence users and
46 resources, it would result in a supplemental EIS, it's
47 fully required to execute implementation of Title VIII
48 on behalf of Alaska subsistence users in a region.

1 And that's the one point of concern I'd
2 like to bring to your attention, those comments are in
3 the transcripts at the RAC meetings, and I'd just
4 request that the Board take action on that analysis,
5 that could -- you know, have the potential -- it's just
6 a review of what those impacts could be, so we're fully
7 aware as subsistence users, what those impacts may be.
8

9 Again, I thank you for your service to
10 the public, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Board.
11 Feel free to contact me with any questions that you may
12 have. I thank you again.
13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, I
15 appreciate you calling in this morning and thank you
16 for that insight. Any questions from the Board.
17

18 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett.
19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chad, go
21 ahead.
22

23 MR. PADGETT: Hi, this is Chad Padgett
24 with BLM. Thank you for your comment. The Donlin
25 actions were a little bit before my tenure here but I
26 am checking on an answer for you as far as the .810, in
27 fact, I just got a text as I've been talking here and
28 there was an .810 done on the BLM analysis, it's an
29 attachment to the Record of Decision. I'd be happy to
30 get that to you if you'd like to see it.
31

32 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. Mr.
33 Padgett. Appreciate that, I do know that the Donlin
34 Mine, which is close in vicinity to this other
35 development has done an .810 analysis, and most large
36 developments do, I'm referring to another project or
37 deposit in the region which is called the Pebble
38 deposit.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 MR. PADGETT: My apologies, thank you.
43 Sorry.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator.
46

47 OPERATOR: And our next question is
48 from Arnold Demoski, your line is open.
49
50

1 MR. DEMOSKI: Yes, good morning. Can
2 you hear me?

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, I hear you
5 good Arnold, you have the floor.

6
7 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay. I just want to
8 address two specific proposals that are not on the non-
9 consensus agenda, on the WP20-36 and WP20-37. I want
10 to support WP20-36, that's, I believe, putting the
11 winter hunt back on for us on the Federal lands during
12 March. I'm aware of all the moose trend counts and I
13 get the report every year and for the past decade I've
14 seen the numbers double in size in our area, and a lot
15 of that is because we have really great hunters in our
16 area in Nulato and Kaltag and they're really great at
17 taking a lot of wolves out of the area and we have a
18 lot of good bear hunters too that take a lot of
19 grizzlies so that's the reason why the moose population
20 doubled. But I supported those, they're very good
21 times for our people especially out in Nulato and
22 Kaltag to hunt, it's -- that hunt is right before our
23 ceremony of StickDance celebration. It's the week
24 before, or maybe two weeks before, so having a hunt
25 there is really good for us. Our population in the
26 village is pretty much double, sometimes tripled in
27 size so having that extra opportunity there for us to
28 harvest moose meat to feed the whole town and our
29 visitors is really good.

30
31 I know we're not meeting our harvest
32 quota every year anyways so having that extra
33 opportunity is good.

34
35 Also I want to say for WP20-37, I think
36 that to put the December hunt on the books, on the
37 regulations and I just think that having that there at
38 this time is not good. I believe if we do meet our
39 harvest quota for the winter hunt, if we do meet it in
40 December then we wouldn't have that opportunity to hunt
41 in March so I just feel like it's not good to have it
42 there at this time.

43
44 That's all I wanted to address and
45 thank you for allowing us to speak on non-agenda items
46 this morning. I've been on since Monday, too, and
47 listening in every day and you guys are doing a really
48 good job.

49
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Board
2 members.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
5 that comment, appreciate you calling in and sharing
6 that with us. It's always good to hear positive
7 feedback. Any questions from the Board.

8
9 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

12
13 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa. And I just
14 wanted to tell the person who just commented, that that
15 -- those proposals will be considered later on in the
16 agenda, so he's welcome to comment on those proposals
17 when they're considered individually during the public
18 comment period.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
21 that. Any other people on line who wish to speak on
22 non-agenda items.

23
24 OPERATOR: Our next comment is from
25 Gayla Hoseth, your line is open.

26
27 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, and thank
28 you and good morning, Mr. Chair and members of the
29 Board. For the record, Gayla Hoseth, I'm with Curyung
30 Tribal Council here in Dillingham, Alaska, and I'm also
31 the Director of Natural Resources for Bristol Bay
32 Native Association.

33
34 I wanted to bring up the Pebble
35 discussion again, and thank you to Cody Larson for
36 putting it on the table this morning as well. We
37 attended the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
38 meeting last October and brought this to the attention
39 of the RAC of the -- for the draft environmental impact
40 statement comments and we were thankful that the
41 Department of Interior submitted comments stating that,
42 you know, a revised or supplemental EIS needs to be
43 done due to data gaps identified in the document and
44 the Department with multiple cooperating agencies. I
45 just wanted to extend a big thank you to the agencies
46 that did provide comments for the EIS. And as we go
47 through this process, it's really important that -- you
48 know, this is supposed to be in the RAC's annual report
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board, that the RAC is in
50

1 support of the Department of Interior's comments and we
2 wanted to bring it up to the Federal Subsistence Board
3 level to also bring that to the Department of Interior
4 for support for a supplement or a revised EIS. And so
5 that's something that we've been requesting a year ago,
6 we went through the RAC and now we're here, again, at
7 the Federal Subsistence Board and I just also echo what
8 Cody Larson stated, that we do need to have a Section
9 .810 analysis in the Bristol Bay region for the Pebble
10 Mine deposit.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
15 Gayla, for calling in today, appreciate that. Any
16 comments from the Board for Gayla.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
21 hearing none, thank you. Operator, I'll ask again if
22 there's any other person on line that would like to
23 speak to non-agenda items, this is the opportunity.

24

25 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair, for the
26 record.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
29 welcome back Charlie.

30

31 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you. I'm here.

32

33 OPERATOR: And our next question is
34 from Elizabeth Crow, your line is open.

35

36 MS. CROW: Hello, can you hear me?

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We can hear you
39 Elizabeth, you have the floor.

40

41 MS. MEDICINE CROW: Gunalcheesh, Howaa.
42 My name is Elizabeth Medicine Crow, my last name is
43 Medicine Crow and it's two separate words but it's my
44 last name, so just clarifying that for the record.

45

46 I'm calling on behalf of First Alaskans
47 Institute. I am the President CEO of our organization.
48 And we have been watching what has been happening
49 across our state, first this pandemic hit, I want to

50

1 appreciate and acknowledge the hard work of our tribes
2 and our local governments to take care of our
3 communities like they always have, putting in place
4 travel bans and shelter in place mandates, even before
5 most of the cities and the State of Alaska did. I
6 think that speaks to their commitment and their
7 dedication and their real awareness of how these things
8 will impact and are impacting very small communities
9 across Alaska.

10

11 I'm calling in to support our villages
12 because of that and our tribes as they try to address
13 this pandemic and the very real food insecurity issues
14 that is causing.

15

16 As you know we've already had these
17 issues with the food supply chain coming into village
18 Alaska from the Lower 48. It's no secret that Alaska
19 has a dependency on outside food sources and it has
20 contributed, quite frankly, to a lot of problems here
21 in the state, especially with our own health. But now
22 even more so, as Lee Wallace spoke to earlier on the
23 call, even those lines are even further restricted, so
24 imagine getting two percent of the Safeway shipment
25 from down south into Ketchikan and that two percent
26 having to feed Ketchikan plus the outlying communities
27 that rely on the freight service into those
28 communities, all of those systems are under increased
29 and compressed pressure because of this. I think it's
30 really important to note that and I appreciate this
31 body for taking these things into consideration because
32 these are real.

33

34 I'm also calling in to support the
35 tribal special action request that have been put
36 forward and also those that have not come forward yet.
37 I think because so many of our communities are
38 scrambling to care for the basic health needs and make
39 sure everyone's set up, scrambling at the same time to
40 deal with the Federal relief packages and find our way
41 through that maze of bureaucracy and administrative
42 challenges, that not all of our tribes and our
43 communities are able to do everything. And so I wanted
44 to make sure to highlight that, that I'm calling in to
45 support the ones that have been submitted as well as
46 knowing that across our state so many people are
47 concerned about their ability to hunt and fish during
48 this time.

49

50

1 I also want to recognize the urgent
2 need that this pandemic is highlighting, which is the
3 need for government to government compacting, to be
4 able to meaningfully address this moment, certainly,
5 but also moving forward. There are very real impacts
6 and dangers that the food supply chain, as was noted
7 earlier by Joel Jackson, for those foods that might
8 come up from down South. Also it's really important to
9 note that the healthiest that we can be is when we're
10 out on our lands harvesting our own foods, eating our
11 own foods, processing our own foods, that takes a lot
12 of effort, a lot of activity, a lot of time, and it
13 does cost a lot of money as well, but it's an
14 investment in our health and our wellbeing and the best
15 people to manage that are the people here in the
16 communities and reduce any outside flow of folks coming
17 in and out of our communities and we can do that by
18 utilizing that government to government relationship
19 between the Federal government and the tribes of
20 Alaska. And to that point I also urge you to consider
21 the delegation of Federal authority to the tribes to
22 manage hunting and fishing, especially right now to
23 proactively address the Covid-19 concerns and, again,
24 limit the exposure to people coming in and out and also
25 providing the commensurate resources to do it. I think
26 it's an opportune moment to think about how this has
27 already been successfully done both through the Indian
28 Health Service and also through the Bureau of Indian
29 Affairs. This is a process that already exists and
30 could be easily activated to support these urgent food
31 security issues in our villages across the state.

32
33 Thank you, so much.

34
35 Gunalcheesh. Howaa for your time and
36 consideration.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
39 taking the time to call in today Elizabeth. Appreciate
40 the good comments that you had. Any questions from the
41 Board to Elizabeth.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
46 Howaa, thank you for calling in today.

47
48 Operator, at this time I would ask if
49 there is anybody else on line that would like to speak
50

1 to a non-agenda item, now is the time.

2

3 OPERATOR: And our next question or
4 comment is from Della Chaney, your line is open.

5

6 MS. CHANEY: Can you hear me?

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I can hear
9 you Della.

10

11 MS. CHANEY: My name is Della Chaney,
12 and my Tlingit name is (In Tlingit) and my Haida name
13 is (In Haida). And I'm calling in support of the
14 tribal special action requests. I'm an elder and I am
15 concerned for my grandchildren, my greatgrandchildren
16 and my great, great. I know they are being affected by
17 everything that is going on through the school system,
18 through the city, the State and the Federal government,
19 and they're having to do a lot of learning to make them
20 participate in what is going on right now to finish
21 their school out. So I'm really concerned about the
22 food line that's coming into our villages, so if
23 there's anything you can do I would really appreciate
24 it. I do appreciate the work that you folks are doing.

25

26 Howaa, Gunalcheesh for letting me share
27 that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
30 taking the time to call in today, Della, appreciate
31 hearing from you. Any questions from the Board for
32 Della.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
37 hearing none, Operator, is there anybody else on line
38 who would like to speak to non-agenda items.

39

40 OPERATOR: Yes, we have several more.
41 Our next question or comment is from Brooke Wood, your
42 line is open.

43

44 MS. WOOD: Good morning, can you hear
45 me?

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
48 the floor.

49

50

1 MS. WOOD: Hi, good morning. My name
2 is Brook Wood, and I work for Tanana Chiefs Hunting and
3 Fishing Task Force. One of our main missions is direct
4 advocacy to protect Alaska Native hunting and fishing
5 rights which is central to our traditional ways of life
6 and wellbeing.

7
8 I wanted to express how exhausting it
9 has been for our program when tribes are asking for
10 help and we are trying to use the systems that are in
11 place and being denied. And what a heartbreak and
12 hardship that is for a tribe to request from the State
13 emergency hunts during an emergency situation and be
14 denied. So the SAR process right now is essential and
15 extremely important for rural communities.

16
17 And I just wanted to make a few
18 comments on the response that Tanana Chiefs received
19 from Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, and
20 the State's approach to addressing the needs of rural
21 communities for an out of season take of game as food
22 source during the Covid situation.

23
24 At this time each day brings a new
25 challenge and currently communities are being told that
26 it is an above average possibility for flooding, so two
27 weeks of waiting is unacceptable. I encourage the
28 Federal Subsistence Board SARs process be streamlined
29 and equitable among communities and consider what
30 delegation of authority will have on communities
31 beforehand if there are any concerns from communities,
32 please address them immediately with each SAR.

33
34 It is well known that fish and wildlife
35 harvest for food provides a major part of nutritional
36 requirement of Alaska's rural population and less
37 notable percentage is from urban areas. The annual
38 take of animals in the annual rural harvest is 276
39 pounds per person. And it has been well documented
40 that Alaska subsistence hunters, fishers and gathers
41 harvest in traditional use areas surrounding their
42 communities.

43
44 Another consideration that needs to be
45 brought forward is what are the effects of the
46 environmental changes with the warming climate on
47 harvesting and the challenges that brings forward and
48 are those hunting grounds accessible at this time.

49
50

1 I also wanted to state that Alaska
2 faces unique food security challenges just because of
3 the remoteness and cost of transportation and the cost
4 of living.

5
6 So while food harvested from the land
7 provide the most food security for our people, and we
8 are well when we are harvesting and when we are
9 fishing, and these foods are the most healthiest food
10 available for our people. And I want Board members and
11 agencies to think about what would it be like for you
12 if you were assigned to a small rural community right
13 now. There's no running water, which is typical in
14 communities like mine. There is no store. No wifi or
15 cell service. Utilities like electricity and fuel are
16 high. Those are your main expenses. Will you get a
17 motorized vehicle there. What is the cost to get that
18 vehicle there. What food supplies are you going to
19 bring. How are you going to purchase that while you
20 are in isolation. Do you have the luxury of cell
21 service and a shopping app that will bring that food
22 directly to your door. How much store bought protein
23 can you purchase. Will you leave it freshly butchered
24 and packed the way it is or will you split that package
25 so it goes further and will you freeze it so you know
26 that it'll make it to your community. Which airlines
27 will you use because some airlines are no longer
28 operating. And there's no guarantee that your food
29 will make it with you. How long will that food supply
30 last you. Are you going to share some of that food to
31 single parents or elders. Once your food supply runs
32 out how will you purchase food. Are you on the road
33 system. Can you reach your home only by air. Do you
34 have a family member willing to risk being exposed to
35 Covid-19 to shop for you, to bring your boxes to the
36 airlines. And will your food arrive in time to where
37 it's edible.

38
39 These are things that I face as a
40 parent living in rural Alaska and these are just things
41 that you need to consider when you're making decisions
42 for rural residents.

43
44 And that doesn't even account for how
45 much it costs to get your food to get to a community.

46
47 The Commissioner mentioned that food
48 supplies can be sent by Unified Command, and if that is
49 the case it needs to happen now because NOAA is
50

1 encouraging communities to prepare for flooding and to
2 be staged, and to be staged you need all the food now.
3 And if you can't provide that food now, then the
4 community needs to do that with an emergency hunt
5 availability.

6
7 So even though there are airlines going
8 in and out of the communities, that does not mean that
9 you have food security.

10
11 He also states that there is existing
12 hunting opportunities such as migratory birds and black
13 bears as food source, and as an Alaska Native woman I'm
14 not supposed to say black bears but I have to break
15 protocol in this Western system. There is one community
16 that depends greatly on migratory birds, but because of
17 the changing climate they are no longer able to go out
18 and harvest birds because there is no access because of
19 the rapid change in weather. And the big animal is a
20 delicacy among men, and women who no longer are of
21 child bearing age, so that food source is not available
22 for every single person in every single community. And
23 water fowl is also a delicacy that, you know, we value
24 and appreciate but it could only go so far for -- and
25 it is not the main protein of our people such as moose.
26 And some of the opportunities that he mentioned in his
27 letter were not for every single person in the amount
28 of time that we had to wait, some of those hunt
29 opportunities were closed.

30
31 I'm almost done.

32
33 In closing, no request that you get
34 from an Alaska Native community or person will take
35 more than is needed and that hunt will be shared
36 amongst family and community. We are taught to respect
37 land, animal and people, and have stewarded since time
38 immemorial. We do our due diligence, we enact policy
39 and regulation while trying to keep our traditional
40 ways of life alive and well. And I feel like we're
41 still in survival mode as Native people, Covid-19 has
42 revealed the inequities faced in a broken system, and
43 in the end, since 1968 Congress has recognized that
44 tribal governments with inherent sovereignty are the
45 entities best suited to meet the needs of their
46 community because they are more directly accountable to
47 the people they represent, more aware of the community
48 issues that are faced daily and more agile to
49 responding to changing circumstances.

50

1 And that is my public testimony for you
2 today.

3
4 Thank you so much.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
7 taking the time today to call in. Appreciate you
8 putting it in perspective for us here on the Board
9 about the issues that rural Alaskans are facing so
10 appreciate it. Does the Board have any questions or
11 comments.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
16 hearing none. Thank you for calling in. Operator, I
17 will ask if there is any other public on line that
18 would like to speak to the non agenda items, this is
19 their opportunity.

20
21 OPERATOR: The next question or comment
22 is from Leo Lomitz, your line is open.

23
24 LEO: Hey, good morning, could you hear
25 me?

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hear you loud
28 and clear, Leo.

29
30 LEO: Good morning. This is Leo
31 Lomitz, thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Chairman
32 and the Board, to make my commentary. You know we're
33 in dire need at this time and here in the community of
34 Koyukuk on the Middle Yukon, Koyukuk River for this
35 special action request on the special moose hunt due to
36 the denial that we received from the State, that wasn't
37 very -- it wasn't very good on us, we didn't sit on
38 that too kindly, but it is what it is. So therefore we
39 have to approach the Federal Subsistence Board to make
40 our request. But, anyhow, because at the same time
41 during this pandemic, Covid-19, we're also preparing
42 for a possible flood here in the community in the
43 Middle Yukon, all up and down the Yukon and Koyukuk
44 River. And there's also in a time and need where we
45 can store some food in case we get caught from high
46 water and flooding. Sometimes when you get caught in
47 that kind of situation it's up to a two weeks, or a
48 week, or even longer, you get caught in the situation
49 and you're bound to where you're at in your boat or in
50

1 -- on high land. So we got to have this food because
2 it's needed.

3
4 It's been -- you know we don't have
5 these great supermarkets like you all do have in the
6 urban areas where you can run out and get your meat or
7 your groceries, you know, every day, our food source is
8 out there in our backyard, that's our supermarket.
9 That's the only place we can obtain it from. And at
10 this time, you know, it's really hard and right now
11 we're facing spring break up weather in the community
12 of Koyukuk -- I'm also the First Chief, by the way I
13 didn't acknowledge that earlier, of the Koyukuk Tribe,
14 we had a tremendous rain spell there for about a week
15 and we only have maybe a week or a little longer to do
16 our moose hunt because of the conditions. The river
17 will get in after this, and the lakes and what not.
18 It's the only time we have accessible for traveling.
19 So, you know, it's time that we got to get this --
20 we're doing this for the overall community, for the
21 unwed mothers with children and the elderly and also
22 the handicaps, those are people that can't go out for
23 themselves so, therefore, we have to, as a tribe, have
24 to go out and do this for them and for the entire
25 community, all we're requesting is at least three to
26 four moose and given time we're requesting up to 60
27 days if that's possible, however long this Covid-19
28 lasts, we don't know how long it'll last ourselves, you
29 know, until we get on the other side. And the cost of
30 transportation for shipping our food out is a dollar a
31 pound and if you bring it out yourself then it's \$2 a
32 pound so that's a tremendous amount of stress on one
33 person. If you buy your food in the city and you're --
34 right now we're on a lock down basis so we got no
35 traveling between communities or into the urban areas
36 and this is really an essential need, you know, it's
37 health related, it's the only time we can travel right
38 now, but other than that we're stuck in the community.
39 We're abiding by the mandate that's set upon us, which
40 is good, to help along with the Covid-19, to try to
41 reach the other side.

42
43 I was very disappointed of the State
44 denying us for a special hunt, that wasn't very, very
45 nice of them, although we've been trained like this by
46 our ancestors for many years and our subsistence
47 lifestyle, we only take what we need, we don't abuse
48 the system, we don't abuse the animals or the waterfowl
49 or what not. We take what we need and that is it, we
50

1 use every part of the moose, or the animals that we
2 take or the birds that we take. We don't waste
3 nothing. We just conserve and respect the land. We're
4 very, very traditional and well taught people by our
5 scientific ancestors who drove this into our minds
6 many, many long years for tens and thousands of years.
7 So therefore we respect the land and we take care of it
8 and we only take what we need.

9
10 Along with this we're at the time of
11 break up and a possible flood and all along the middle
12 Yukon and even up the Koyukuk River is in danger of
13 flooding due to a lot of snow we got throughout the
14 winter, and the ice thickness, and run off from the
15 hills land we know it's going to be high water, but at
16 the present time we're also preparing for a flood and
17 this Covid-19 shelter in place, it's really a task on
18 us but yet we still got to feed our people and make
19 sure to get through this.

20
21 In closing, you know, Koyukuk is really
22 a -- if you need to hear from us more, we are
23 available. You know, we're on Unit 21B (ph) area
24 (muffled) and there's a lot of Refuge land surrounding
25 us so, you know, with that said I hope you take time
26 and respect our request and think about it long and
27 hard and I hope you come up with a good answer for us,
28 you know.

29
30 I'd like to thank you on behalf of my
31 community of Koyukuk, being the First Chief, and thank
32 you, Mr. Chairman and the Board, for giving me this
33 time and opportunity to voice my concerns and my
34 comments.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 And God Bless you all.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
41 taking the time to call in today and God Bless you as
42 well, and you know, the best to you and your community.
43 Any questions from the Board.

44
45 MS. PITKA: No question, but thank you,
46 Chief, for calling in. I appreciate hearing your words
47 today.

48
49 LEO: Thank you, Ma'am. Appreciate for
50

1 the comment there, it's well taken.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, any
4 other public on line that would like to speak at this
5 time to non-agenda items.

6

7 OPERATOR: Yes, Sir. The next question
8 or comment is from Mike Jackson, your line is open.

9

10 MR. JACKSON: Yes, thank you very much,
11 Mr. Chairman and the Board. I'm Mike Jackson, my
12 Tlingit name is (In Tlingit), my Haida name is (In
13 Haida) and part of our tradition here in Kake is
14 supplying foods for the young, the mothers, the
15 children, and the elders.

16

17 Today the whole tribe is in a situation
18 where we're calling upon you for this special action
19 requests. And part of that is our customary and
20 traditional gathering that we share and we only take
21 what we really need. Like our President, we have said
22 in the past, but I'll reiterate it now, is that the
23 State Board of Fish and Game has rejected our special
24 action request in regard for moose and deer. And I'd
25 like to remind the Board just because I'm an elder, but
26 as a Staff person for our tribe, through the
27 transportation department, it calls upon us many times
28 in our program, to supply transportation for customary
29 and traditional gatherings.

30

31 Part of my comment today is to remind
32 the Board, that the Federal Subsistence Board was
33 created just for this type of situation. And thank God
34 for Katie John, that took on the Federal government to
35 take on the trust responsibility of all our five
36 Federal Board members there, to look and act upon their
37 trust responsibilities for the health and wellness of
38 all tribes in Alaska. And I don't need to remind you
39 all that it is because the State did not, and still
40 does not recognize tribes, that this action of the
41 Federal Subsistence Board was created. And I would
42 really call upon the Federal Subsistence Board to look
43 at the co-management of fish and game, of customary and
44 traditional gathering that the tribes have practiced
45 since time immemorial.

46

47 And I'd like to thank all the people
48 that have commented on all the special agenda items,
49 and/or this informal one, and really thank the Federal

50

1 Subsistence Board for taking this one, on this time of
2 emergency. Down here in Southeast Alaska we were hit
3 with the lack of ferry service beginning in the fall
4 and it doesn't look it's going to open until mid-summer
5 now, but now with this Covid-19, food services in
6 Seattle that give priority to the large food chains
7 down South and we see the lack of food coming into
8 Juneau and Sitka because of -- they look at Alaska as
9 the state across the water. And, you know, we're
10 lacking of our food, we know that the people that have
11 been marginalized before are much more now, and the
12 food that we are dependent upon isn't there like we can
13 go to the store and pick up anything that we would
14 like, it's not like that here in the rural villages.
15 And we call upon our Fish and Game Board to look at
16 our customary and traditional gathering because it's
17 our sustenance here in the rural area. But you also
18 have heard through the testimony that it is a
19 spiritual, a wellness of our mental health and our
20 health and nutrients. So I think you guys have the
21 ability to do so and I really encourage you to, is to
22 fast-track these permits, and we know that the tribal
23 government can take on the responsibility of doing such
24 things.

25

26 These aren't ordinary times.

27

28 And you can see it in people, in our
29 own community, of them being worried, and I thank the
30 people that work for the tribes, especially the Tribal
31 Council and Chiefs and their Staff to get out and try
32 to create a better situation in our rural communities.

33

34 So, thank you, again, Mr. Chairman, and
35 Board, to look at these subjects very carefully and
36 make sure that the trust responsibility is there for
37 our communities just like the Katie John case decision
38 was made.

39

40 Gunalcheesh. Howaa.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Mike. Appreciate you calling in today and giving us
44 the viewpoint from your community. Any questions from
45 the Board for Mike.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Best to you,

50

1 Mike.

2

3

MR. JACKSON: Howaa.

4

5

6

OPERATOR: And our next question is
from Carlos Frank, your line is open.

7

8

MR. FRANK: Good morning, Board.

9

10

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning.

11

12

13

14

15

MR. FRANK: I have testimony on
Proposal WP20-49, but there is a flood warning here and
I'm sorry my attentions are needed elsewhere, and I
would like to speak on the proposal now.

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

MR. FRANK: Would that be fine?

20

21

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

MR. FRANK: Okay. I'm here testifying
in opposition to Proposal WP20-49 to the open -- to
open the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in Unit
25A to the harvest of sheep by non-Federally-qualified
users in which the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
submitted.

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The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
state there are no conservation concerns for Federally-
qualified subsistence users meeting their needs. My
conservation concern is in the form of accessibility
and competition to the hunting grounds. Subsistence
users are going to try and harvest the game as close to
home and using as little money as possible knowing the
income, or the bills, and the cost of keeping a roof
over his head, as opposed to the non-Federally-
qualified users who are, in my belief, the trophy
hunters and the hunting guides which are making money
off the resources while subsistence users desperately
need to carry on their traditional and traditional
values -- these trophy hunters and guides have the
money to buy hundreds of gallons of gas for their boats
and ATVs, or they come in by plane, which there are
make-shift landings within the management area, but
locate and position themselves in specific hunting
areas that the local subsistence hunters work so hard
to get to.

50

1 And with that that concludes my
2 testimony. I thank you for your time. And pray the
3 considerations of the subsistence users are being
4 thought of while making such vital decisions on these
5 proposals.
6

7 Thank you.
8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
10 taking the time to call in today, appreciate it. Any
11 questions.
12

13 (No comments)
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Could I get
16 your name for the record one more time, please, I
17 missed that.
18

19 MR. FRANK: Yes, it's Carl Frank, C-A-
20 R-L, Frank F-R-A-N-K.
21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
23 Thank you for calling in today, Carl, appreciate it.
24

25 MR. FRANK: Yep, thank you guys for your
26 time.
27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
29

30 OPERATOR: Our next comment is from
31 Bruce Irvin, your line is open.
32

33 MR. IRVIN: Good morning, can you guys
34 hear me okay?
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I hear you
37 fine, Bruce, you have the floor.
38

39 MR. IRVIN: Okay. Thank you, Chairman,
40 members of the Board, and Staff. For the record, my
41 name is Bruce Irvin, and I work for the Tanana Chiefs
42 Conference, in the Hunting Fishing and Gathering Task
43 Force.
44

45 Today I'm here because of (In Native),
46 which is true love for our tribes in the TCC region.
47 We work for tribes and we believe in ensuring a healthy
48 strong unified tribe. We have been working with tribes
49 to submit SARs to open hunting for food security.
50

1 Tribes have requested technical assistance navigating
2 State and Federal systems because it is overwhelming.
3 Our tribes are exhausting all administrative options
4 during this challenging time. We are currently working
5 with seven tribes, but there are 42 total tribes in the
6 TCC region. The State Commissioner denied TCC's
7 request for an emergency moose hunt. And one reason
8 was that they couldn't limit hunting to only rural, but
9 rural areas are where the problem is taking place.
10 There are other opportunities for subsistence but the
11 suggested Game Management Unit from the Commissioner
12 only supply opportunity for 20 of the 42 total TCC
13 tribes.

14
15 This morning we have heard many tribes
16 all over Alaska echoing similar concerns with food
17 security issues. I have been working closely with the
18 TCC tribes who want to submit an SAR, special action
19 request, and there are challenges so I have done as
20 much as I can to empower them, but the Federal
21 Subsistence Board needs to take action now. We need a
22 better system to address this emergency need. We are
23 running out of time to provide food sources for our
24 rural communities. The National Weather Service stated
25 there's an above average chance of flooding on the
26 Yukon and Tanana Rivers, so, again, we need to take
27 action now.

28
29 I want to thank you for listening to my
30 testimony.

31
32 Chairman, Members of the Board, and
33 Staff, I appreciate all your hard work.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 I hope that we come to some agreement.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
40 taking the time to call in today. Any questions from
41 the Board, comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
46 Appreciate that. Operator, is there anybody else
47 standing by on the non-agenda topic.

48
49 OPERATOR: Yes, we have two more. Karen
50

1 Linnell, your line is open.

2

3 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Good morning.
4 This is Karen Linnell, with the Ahtna InterTribal
5 Resource Commission.

6

7 I just want to speak in support of
8 special action request for the more rural communities
9 out there. As you know, we live on the highway system
10 which has been a blessing and a curse in regards to
11 competition for our food sources. We had one of our
12 elders make a request for one moose per village for our
13 eight tribes and that was denied. And caribou season
14 was still open. And I just wanted to let you all know
15 that the caribou have not crossed yet and the season
16 has been closed for three weeks now. So they haven't
17 come back from across the river in Game Management Unit
18 11, which has been closed for over three decades, close
19 to four now, because of the Mentasta Caribou Herd.

20

21 But I want to speak in support of those
22 communities that aren't connected to the highway, and
23 are having travel issues with lack of ferry system and
24 lack of flights coming in and those kinds of things.

25

26 I saw the letter that the Commissioner
27 wrote to TCC when he told them that, well, you have an
28 area open over here that you can still go to hunt in
29 until April 15th or something, and it was so far away
30 from the other communities, that it just wasn't
31 feasible, and it was like in the backyard, and it was
32 something that you could jump in a car and drive over
33 there to be able to hunt, it's just really not
34 realistic and I don't think that they looked at the map
35 and how far dispersed those communities are. So, you
36 know, we -- I believe that those communities should be
37 afforded the opportunity to get some food to supplement
38 what they have. The lack of travel, of even here, we
39 have tribal members that are afraid and actually some
40 of our communities are closed to people who leave and
41 go to where there is the Covid-19, and if you leave the
42 community and you go to Anchorage or Fairbanks to buy
43 groceries you can't come home, and so we've been
44 restricted to staying where there is no flu, this
45 Covid-19, and no virus, and so if, you know, and out
46 here when you pay \$18 for a five pound sack of sugar,
47 you know, and then our produce or anything, if you
48 don't eat it that day it's pretty much spoiled the next
49 day, those are concerns for us. But, you know, at

50

1 least we have that opportunity to get on the road and
2 go somewhere where there isn't a virus and we have that
3 opportunity, especially now that fuel prices are being
4 reduced here, we don't have to have our fuel barged in.
5 These other communities had their fuel barged in last
6 fall so it's still at the higher prices because that's
7 what they bought it at. So the drop in fuel prices, it
8 hasn't really affected them yet.

9
10 So I just want to speak in support of
11 their request.

12
13 I feel for our neighbors. I feel for
14 their stress, their worry, their ability to provide for
15 themselves. Watching friends from Wainwright and other
16 parts of the state, and their inability to get their
17 shipments in because the airlines closed, you know,
18 those kinds of things are difficult to watch, difficult
19 to watch your friends struggle like that. And being
20 able to support one another, like we usually do, even
21 though I, myself, am able to -- I was able to store
22 enough to get me through and I'm able to share with my
23 cousins here, even if I wanted to send some to my
24 friend in Wainwright, I can't, because there's no
25 shipping going there, you know. It's a sad thing to
26 watch your friends struggle. And so being able to have
27 those folks that are in those more remote areas be able
28 to put food on the tables of their tribal citizens is
29 important. And as a matter of fact, not just the
30 tribal citizens, we have non-tribal friends that live
31 out there and need to be able to have that food. And
32 so when we're talking about this kind of thing, you
33 know, you're not just talking about our own people, we
34 take care of our neighbors, too.

35
36 And I just want to commend all the
37 leadership that's been calling in and speaking to their
38 concerns and their worry about their tribes and the
39 ability to sustain themselves. And so I urge the Board
40 to take some sort of action to help these folks out
41 before the end of this meeting.

42
43 And I just want to thank you again for
44 your time, and your understanding.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
47 calling in today, Karen, appreciate you speaking on the
48 topic. Any questions for Karen.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Again, thank
4 you, appreciate you calling in today. Operator, you
5 said there was one more on line for public comment on
6 non-agenda items.

7

8 OPERATOR: Yes. The next one is
9 Courtenay Carty, your line is open.

10

11 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Operator. Mr.
12 Chairman. Good morning, members of the Board. I ended
13 the public testimony on non-agenda items last --
14 yesterday so I guess I'll go again today. I originally
15 star one'd in so that I could maybe follow up on some
16 of the comments I made yesterday in regards to Curyung
17 Tribal Council, which I am the tribal administrator,
18 for the record.

19

20 Our request, continued request for a
21 Section .810 analysis, I had provided our Curyung
22 Tribal Council cooperating agency comments to Donald,
23 Orville, Suzanne and Theo, so hopefully those will be
24 disseminated amongst the Board members and Staff, but
25 before I get into that I just need to take a quick
26 moment to thank the Board for providing the forum where
27 we are able to call in and testify without a time
28 limit. I know for some it's very cumbersome to wait in
29 the cue, but it's very important that we're all able to
30 express our concerns and share the observations of
31 what's happening in our communities. And it's hard to
32 not, you know, take that to heart, it's all very strong
33 words that are being said, and I believe it was Ms.
34 Wood, with Tanana Chiefs earlier today, was asking
35 members of the Board who are from the urban areas, and
36 not necessarily well versed in rural life a bunch of
37 questions about food security and costs and shipping,
38 and I just wanted to share a quick sentiment on that.

39

40 While I was in the cue waiting to speak
41 I got a call from our air cargo that my meat pack that
42 I ordered is finally here. So thankfully through the
43 gift of sharing we were able to receive caribou this
44 winter from our friends but we did not hunt ourselves.
45 My cousin, Kayden, is my designated hunter and his
46 snowmachine broke before the season closed, and was
47 unable to go out for us, but, thankfully we were able
48 to have meat and my family is fortunate enough to have
49 enough of a cash economy to be able to supplement our

50

1 traditional foods and have food security. So two weeks
2 ago I ordered our meat pack from a meat company that I
3 sometimes order from because our stores out here, even
4 though Dillingham is a hub community, and we have
5 regular freight planes every day, our stores are seeing
6 diminished inventory, some regular routine staple items
7 are not even stock, yeast, for example, cooking yeast
8 is in no store, in Dillingham, nor has it been for
9 quite awhile, but -- and so people are sharing yeast,
10 it's really funny, I'll make up a jam jar and give it
11 to some lady so she could make bread, but thankfully we
12 have the internet to be able to now use this modern
13 technology to exercise our traditional and customary
14 ways of harvesting and sharing, but back to the meat
15 back, you know, that was 75 pounds of meat that I
16 purchased for \$310 and then spent another, I believe
17 \$55 shipping it here because I was able to ship at food
18 rate, which was 50 cents a pound, but that food rate is
19 now over with Ace Air Cargo, which we're still
20 fortunate to have daily service so just about \$400 for
21 75 pounds of meat, which is less than what we would
22 have gotten with just one caribou, and so that's a
23 little bit of perspective, and two weeks to get here
24 and we're in a hub community. So if it had to go to a
25 bush community or a little village community it would
26 take longer and be more expensive.

27
28 Okay, with that said, I'm going to take
29 a minute to read a couple of the comments from our
30 cooperating agency comments that were submitted to the
31 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well as all the other
32 State and Federal cooperating agencies in regards to
33 the Pebble PSEIS is what we call it now, the
34 preliminary final impact statement.

35
36 On Page 6 of 17 of our comments in
37 regards to chapter 3.9 subsistence. Inclusion of an
38 ANILCA .810 analysis. Impacts to 17(b) easements. The
39 PSEIS fails to acknowledge that a subsistence impact
40 analysis is legally required pursuant to ANILCA.
41 Section .810 of ANILCA provides in determining whether
42 to withdraw, reserve, lease or otherwise permit the
43 use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands under
44 any provision of law, authorizing such action, the head
45 of the Federal agency having primary jurisdiction over
46 such lands, or his designee, shall evaluate the need of
47 such use. Shall being the key word, not may, shall;
48 this is required by law. Shall evaluate the effect of
49 such use, occupancy or disposition on the subsistence
50

1 uses and needs, the availability of other lands for the
2 purposes sought to be achieved, or other alternatives
3 which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy or
4 disposition of public lands needed for subsistence
5 purposes.

6
7 So the PSEIS goes on to state that an
8 evaluation of subsistence impacts pursuant to .810 is
9 unnecessary because there are no Federal lands in the
10 project area, however, the PSEIS is completely
11 incorrect. All action alternatives implicate impacts
12 to ANCSA 17(b) easements as noted in Chapter 3.2 on the
13 preferred alternative. So Pebble, PLTs preferred
14 alternative would cross three Section 17(b) easements,
15 two are also crossed by alternative one, or three, and
16 one is off of the Iliamna/Newhalen Road, so alternative
17 one would intersect one Section 17(b) easement on the
18 southern shore of Iliamna Lake and alternative two or
19 three would intersect two Section 17(b) easements both
20 beginning at the northern shore of Iliamna Lake and
21 continuing north. ANCSA Section 17(b) easements are
22 public lands reserved by the U.S. for access to public
23 land and water on lands that have been or will be
24 conveyed, ANCSA Section 17(b) easements provide access
25 to subsistence opportunities on publicly owned land and
26 as such are subject to ANILCA's Section .810.

27
28 So our tribal council's recommendation
29 to the Army Corps, Pebble and the cooperating agencies,
30 recommendation; to reiterate our request to the Federal
31 government to evaluate the subsistence impacts of the
32 proposed alternatives under ANILCA Section .810. The
33 Corps must not proceed to a final environmental impact
34 statement until an ANILCA .810 analysis is complete and
35 the public has had the opportunity to review and
36 comment on the analysis in a revised or supplemental
37 environmental impact statement.

38
39 So with that said, I guess, in
40 conclusion, I would really try to encourage or charge
41 the BLM rep, Director Padgett, to look into this and
42 work with our tribe and our partners to not only
43 understand our very valid claim, but assure that the
44 law is followed as laid out in ANILCA, Section .810,
45 and that this project does not proceed without the bare
46 minimum, which is required, to disclose under NEPA,
47 which includes a Section .810 analysis on the proposed
48 impacts to subsistence resources in Bristol Bay.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
4 Courtenay. Thank you for calling in today. Any
5 questions or comments from the Board for Courtenay.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, good
10 to hear you Courtenay, and, again, thank you for
11 calling in today and giving us your perspective on
12 that.

13

14 Operator, is there anybody else on line
15 for non-agenda items.

16

17 OPERATOR: Yes, one more came through
18 from Gayla Hoseth, your line is open.

19

20 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
21 members of the Board. I just wanted to thank Courtenay
22 Carty, our tribal administrator for bringing this to
23 your guys' attention. And I guess the request would
24 be, is there any way that the Federal Subsistence Board
25 could take action for a Section .810 analysis to be
26 done. This was also brought to the Bristol Bay
27 Regional Advisory Council and this is supposed to be in
28 the RAC's annual report, also supporting for a Section
29 .810 analysis from the RAC. So time is of the essence.
30 Like I stated earlier, we were here a year ago and if
31 we could have an action item for a Section .810,
32 according to all what Courtenay just read to you, for
33 our comments, as a cooperating agency, would be greatly
34 appreciated.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
39 Gayla. Any discussion from the Board.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
44 bringing up that and hopefully we can get an answer
45 back.

46

47 Operator, is there anybody else on line
48 who would like to speak on non-agenda items.

49

50

1 OPERATOR: No additional parties in cue
2 at this time.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Well, I
5 appreciate everybody who called in this morning and
6 speaking for your constituents and people on important
7 issues not related to the agenda.

8
9 Thank you, it was a very good
10 informative morning and a good way to start our
11 meeting, so appreciate everybody taking an interest in
12 the program and speaking on behalf of the people you
13 represent and trying to find solutions for the hard
14 times that we find ourselves facing, and unprecedented
15 territory as far as where we are in today's age.

16
17 So, thank you, everybody for doing
18 that, appreciate the patience.

19
20 Now, it looks like we move back on to
21 the order of business for this morning and start in
22 with the proposals. Tom, I believe we left on on.....

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: And if I may.....

29
30 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
33 Charlie. Hold on one second, Tom.

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

36
37 MR. C. BROWER: This is.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie, you
40 have the floor.

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is WP20-27 would
43 be the next on the agenda, if the Board recalls, that
44 we wanted to put WP20-27 in front of WP20-26, so that
45 would be the next order of business.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

50

1 This is Robbin, can you hear me?

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I can hear you
4 Robbin, you have the floor.

5

6 MS. LAVINE: So actually, I'm going to
7 revert to 20-26 if you don't mind, is there any -- is
8 there any desire to keep 27 first?

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I don't
11 remember.....

12

13 MR. DOOLITTLE: That was the direction
14 of the Board Robbin.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I know the
17 Board had a discussion on it the other day so I would,
18 again, ask the Board members to speak up on that.

19

20 MS. LAVINE: Uhm.

21

22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
23 is Greg.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, Greg, go
26 ahead.

27

28 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, thank you. Yeah,
29 I had made a motion for an agenda change that would
30 move 20-27 ahead of 20-26 primarily because I think
31 this discussion might inform some of the 20-26
32 discussion.

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Uhm.

35

36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Through the Chair and thank you, Mr. Siekaniec. I will
40 address 27 first.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
43 yours.

44

45 MS. LAVINE: Okay. All right. So good
46 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Board. For the
47 record my name is Robbin Lavine. I'm an anthropologist
48 with the Office of Subsistence Management and I will be
49 presenting both Wildlife Proposals 20-26 and 20-27.

50

1 Both pertain to the use of snowmachine
2 for subsistence harvest purposes in Southwest Alaska,
3 and both share a regulatory history. There are some
4 differences. So I will address the regulatory history
5 of snow machine use in Southwest Alaska in this
6 presentation and forego it in the next.

7

8 The Wildlife Proposal 20-27 analysis
9 begins on Page 870 of your Board book.

10

11 Wildlife Proposal 20-27 was submitted
12 by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and it
13 requests a unit specific regulation for Unit 17
14 allowing use of a snow machine to assist in the taking
15 of a caribou and allowing caribou to be shot from a
16 stationary snowmachine using the regulatory language
17 adopted by the Alaska Board of Game in February 2018.
18 And if it would be helpful I can read the proposed
19 regulatory language for you now, and you can also find
20 it on Page 873 of your Board book, and the language
21 states:

22

23 In Unit 17, a snowmachine may be used
24 to assist in the taking of a caribou and caribou may be
25 shot from a stationary snowmachine. Assist in the
26 taking of a caribou means a snowmachine may be used to
27 approach within 300 yards of a caribou at speeds under
28 15 miles per hour in a manner that does not involve
29 repeated approaches or that causes a caribou to run. A
30 snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to
31 pursue a fleeing caribou.

32

33 The proposal was submitted by the
34 Council, the recommendation of a working group
35 consisting of representatives from the public, the
36 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, the Bristol Bay
37 Native Association, the Togiak National Wildlife
38 Refuge, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the
39 Office of Subsistence Management and State and Federal
40 law enforcement offices. The proponent states, that
41 keeping State and Federal hunting regulations aligned
42 and simple will be more understandable for all users.

43

44 So some regulatory history to keep in
45 mind.

46

47 In 2016, Wildlife Proposal 16-48
48 requested that Federally-qualified subsistence users be
49 allowed to use snowmachines to position caribou, wolf,
50

1 or wolverine for harvest in Unit 23. The Board adopted
2 the proposal with modification to allow this method of
3 harvest only on those lands managed by the Bureau of
4 Land Management as the regulatory language for this
5 agency does not specifically prohibit the use of
6 snowmachine to position animals for hunting. The Board
7 also noted this harvest method is allowed on some State
8 managed lands.

9
10 In 2017, Wildlife Proposal 18-24
11 requested pretty much the same thing as 16-48, that
12 Federally-qualified subsistence users be allowed to use
13 a snowmachine to position caribou, wolves and
14 wolverines for harvest in Unit 17 provided the animals
15 were not shot from a moving snowmachine.

16
17 The same proposal, 148, was submitted
18 to the Board of Game. During its fall 2017 meeting,
19 the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council opposed 18-24
20 noting that definitions for positioning and chase of an
21 animal are not clearly defined in current regulations.
22 However, in February 2018, the Alaska Board of Game
23 adopted Proposal 148 with modification limited to the
24 taking of caribou only shot from a stationary
25 snowmachine with further clarification describing
26 exactly how the snowmachine may be used for assistance,
27 and that language I just read to you, it is part of
28 this regulatory proposal.

29
30 During the April 2018 Federal
31 Subsistence Board meeting the Bristol Bay Regional
32 Advisory Council requested Wildlife Proposal 18-24 be
33 taken off the consensus agenda and some public
34 testimony was received in support of it. The Board
35 deliberated the proposal on record and rejected it,
36 citing concerns over a lack of clarity and consistency
37 among existing regulations.

38
39 Currently the Nushagak Peninsula
40 Caribou Herd is at population objectives and the
41 Mulchatna Caribou Herd is not. Regardless the
42 regulatory change is not expected to impact caribou
43 populations in the area. Snowmachines are already
44 extensively used in Unit 17 to access hunting grounds
45 and harvest numbers will continue to be managed by
46 seasons and limits within regulation. Specifically,
47 the proposed regulation will not alter current
48 prohibitions for snowmachine use on Federal lands, such
49 as taking caribou from a moving snowmachine, or using a
50

1 snowmachine to pursue, drive, herd or molest wildlife.
2 Instead, the proposed regulation provides specific
3 language describing snowmachine use for the purposes of
4 hunting caribou in Unit 17 while remaining in
5 compliance with existing regulations. It will also
6 align State and Federal regulations on snowmachine use
7 while hunting caribou in Unit 17.

8
9 The use of snowmachines for subsistence
10 purposes is a traditional practice in the Bristol Bay
11 area and statewide. Public testimony and discussion at
12 Council and Board meetings affirms the significance of
13 snowmachine use to the subsistence way of life while
14 seeking guidance on issues of compliance. This
15 proposal was agreed upon by a diverse group of
16 stakeholders.

17
18 The OSM conclusion is to support
19 Wildlife Proposal 20-27.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 I'm here to take questions if you have
24 any.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ms.
27 Lavine. Any questions for Staff on that presentation.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
32 that. We'll move on to summary of public comments,
33 Regional Advisory Council coordinator.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Mr.
36 Chairman, Members of the Board. This is Katya Wessels
37 with OSM. And we did not receive any written public
38 comments for Wildlife Proposal 20-27.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Katya. We'll at this time now open the floor to any
44 public testimony.

45
46 OPERATOR: And, again, for those on the
47 phone if you would like to make a comment, please press
48 star one. Our first comment comes from Robbin Chaney,
49 your line is open.

50

1 MS. CHANEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
2 name is Robbin Chaney. I'm from Dillingham and I would
3 like to testify in favor of these proposals.
4

5 I have five of my own children, I'm
6 also a foster parent. I have four sons so I don't
7 actually get to do a lot of harvesting myself anymore
8 but I'm in favor of this proposal that would
9 decriminalize a traditional hunting method that my
10 family uses. If you've been out here, our snow
11 conditions vary from year to year, it's been a lot
12 warmer -- it is harder to catch caribou, you never know
13 where they're going to be. They're not like salmon.
14 You know, as long as fish come back, they're going to
15 be in the river and we can reliably harvest them.
16 Caribou travel long distances, we know that the herd is
17 really healthy.
18

19 I would also like to contribute
20 testimony on behalf of my son, Tristan Chaney, we're on
21 the same line and he wasn't able to stay on the meeting
22 with me all morning, but his contribution to our
23 testimony is that traditionally we don't chase animals
24 anyway. If you're a hunter and if you've used vehicles
25 to hunt, you know that animals that run a great
26 distance so exhaust themselves are very tough and don't
27 taste as well as animals that haven't gone through the
28 stress of being chased. So the way that they use
29 snowmachines are just as described in the proposal,
30 they use it to position between hunters so that they
31 can safely efficiently and respectfully catch caribou
32 for our family. This spring the caribou is really
33 critical to us for subsistence. School's out, and the
34 kids aren't in school, they're all at home, we were
35 able to harvest fortunately caribou this morning, or
36 this spring, and conditions were pretty rough, and so
37 his other comment, too, is with tundra conditions out
38 here being as they are, often times they're not going
39 at a high rate of speed anyway.
40

41 But I thank you for this opportunity to
42 testify and share our local knowledge with you.
43

44 Qu yana.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
47 taking the time to call in today, any questions or
48 interaction from the Board.
49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
4 taking the time to call in.

5

6 Operator, is there any other public on
7 the phone that would like to speak to this proposal.

8

9 OPERATOR: Yes, we have three more. We
10 have Courtenay Carty, your line is open.

11

12 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Operator. Mr.
13 Chair, if it pleases the Board I would like to defer
14 until we -- my testimony until we get through our
15 hunting families. I know a few of them have called in
16 all morning and have been patiently waiting to provide
17 testimony on this proposal. I'm not sure, I only hear
18 that there's a couple more in the cue, so maybe some
19 have had to drop off to other commitments, but if I may
20 I would like to wait until they go and then provide the
21 tribe's comments.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's fine.
24 Operator -- thank you, Courtenay for that. Could we
25 move on to the next public member on line.

26

27 OPERATOR: Yes, Sir. Next one is
28 Nichole Crouse, your line is open.

29

30 MS. TINKER: Hi, this is Christine
31 Tinker, Nichole Crouse, we were on the line together.
32 Anyways I am Christine Tinker, mother and wife of a
33 subsistence family out here in Bristol Bay.

34

35 I have three grown boys who are
36 fishing, hunting, subsistence gathering for myself, my
37 in-laws, my mother, my aunts, family and friends,
38 elders come first. And so my family goes out and
39 subsistence and gathers year-round.

40

41 Caribou hunting was our big blessing
42 this past spring. I say that because we hunted last
43 fall, we hunted moose this winter. We did not catch at
44 all. So when we went out this spring my son, who is
45 15, was blessed with his caribou and was able to share
46 with 10 different families. That went a long way.
47 Like Courtenay had mentioned, flying in meat gets very
48 expensive for Bristol Bay. Our children only know how
49 to eat the subsistence meat like moose and caribou.

50

1 They don't like to go to the store like most and buy T-
2 bone steak or New York, that's not what they're
3 familiar with.

4
5 So I also, you know, look at this and
6 support the proposal for snowmachines to take caribou
7 and game for our local subsistence men. As we speak
8 they're out in the waters right now subsistencing, like
9 I said, we do it year-round, my family lives 95 percent
10 off the land and caribou and moose contribute to most
11 of our protein.

12
13 So that's all I really wanted to say is
14 I support it and I really hope that you guys continue
15 to look into this and hearing our comments, I do
16 appreciate it, and taking the time to listen to us.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
19 Thank you for calling in today and sharing your
20 experience, appreciate that. Any discussion or
21 question from the Board.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have a nice
26 day and best to you and the family out there.

27
28 Operator, is there another public
29 member on line.

30
31 OPERATOR: Yes, we have three more and
32 our next one is from Heidi Kritz, your line is open.

33
34 MS. KRITZ: Good morning, thank you,
35 Mr. Chair and members of the Board. My name is Heidi
36 Kritz. I live in Dillingham currently, I grew up in
37 the subsistence way of life in Aleknagik, and Togiak.

38
39 I am not a hunter but I am thankful for
40 those who provide for us which is why I am testifying
41 this morning. I believe that positioning and using the
42 snowmachine for caribou will minimize the waste of
43 animal meat. I know there's -- sometimes the meat gets
44 really blood shot and some people don't use it. These
45 have been hunting local practices that have been passed
46 down to the next generation and like we've heard, as
47 time goes on we get more technology. Back then we used
48 dog sleds, now we're using snowmachines. Using the
49 positioning of animals would benefit our subsistence
50

1 users and all the eight factors of the C&T
2 determination would apply to this proposal.

3

4 That's all I have, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
7 Appreciate you taking the time to call in today. Any
8 questions from the Board.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, hearing
13 none, thank you. Operator, we'll go to the next public
14 member on line.

15

16 OPERATOR: Our next one is from Kenneth
17 Nukwuk, your line is open.

18

19 MR. NUKWUK: Hello, can you hear me.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, I can hear
22 you Ken, you have the floor.

23

24 MR. NUKWUK: Yeah, this is Ken Nukwuk
25 from Manokotak. I'd like to thank the Bristol Bay
26 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for looking into
27 this on the second round of wildlife proposals and in
28 support of this. It was presented two years ago to the
29 Board and it almost passed, hopefully this time around
30 it will come around.

31

32 To tell the story of the caribou I saw
33 last month in March in (In Native) Bay on my way home
34 from Togiak, I saw a herd of caribou, 30 to 40 of them
35 and they had been running, it seems like, and they were
36 congregated on the beach between the mouth of (In
37 Native) and Konak River (ph), but the tracks that
38 followed them, I was thinking they were probably wolves
39 that were chasing these caribou to a point that they
40 were tired so they had to rest. So when these 30 to 40
41 caribou took off running, one of them stayed behind, I
42 guess because it was so tired, so I had to go check it
43 out to see if it was dead or -- sure enough it was
44 alive, and then it came to mind, I had to look around
45 because I didn't have a rifle with me, I had to make
46 sure there was no wolves around and I was alone so I
47 went back on my journey came back home, never forgot
48 that I saw a hurt caribou, been running and there was
49 no snowmachine tracks, so it's not hunters that follow

50

1 these caribou when we try to get what we need.

2

3 And that's about all I can say, it
4 would be very good if it passed this time around.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, I
7 appreciate you calling in Kenneth. Thank you for your
8 words on this. Any question or discussion from the
9 Board.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
14 hearing none, again, thank you, Kenneth, for taking the
15 time to call in today.

16

17 Operator, do we have any other public
18 members on line.

19

20 OPERATOR: We have one more at this
21 time, Courtenay Carty, your line is open.

22

23 MS. CARTY: Hello again, thank you, Mr.
24 Chair, members of the Board. For the record my name is
25 Courtenay Carty, I am the tribal administrator at the
26 Curyung Tribal Council. We are the Federally-
27 recognized tribe of Dillingham, Alaska.

28

29 Our tribal council supports WP20-27 as
30 it seeks to codify a customary and traditional practice
31 to position animals as well documented throughout
32 Alaska, specifically this proposal speaks to position
33 caribou. We are also in support of 26, which supports
34 the positioning of wolves and wolverine, but opening it
35 up, I guess to all Federal lands in Bristol Bay.

36

37 It's important that our regulations
38 adapt to technology as quickly as our people do. In
39 the proposal statement in the Board book, not
40 necessarily written into the record today, it talks a
41 lot about 1964, 1965, when James VanStone, who was
42 really one of the first ethnographers to visit Bristol
43 Bay came here, he documented that the primary
44 transportation method in the winter was sled dogs.
45 Sled dog was the primary method of transportation and
46 snowmachines were nearly non-existent. He noted that
47 only a few families in the bay had snowmachines at that
48 time. 10 year later Fish and Game started their
49 research of the subsistence resources in Bristol Bay

50

1 and in just that one decade ADF&G documented the huge
2 technological shift from the primary method of
3 transportation being dogs to snowmachine. And in just
4 over that decade, that huge shift in technology played
5 out over time until it has become over the last 50
6 years, the loss of cultural practice, and the
7 traditional knowledge of raising and working with dog
8 teams for transportation in our region.

9
10 One thing our tribe says a lot is that
11 we are the survivors of the survivors. Our people,
12 specifically the Curyung Tribal Council is decedent of
13 the orphans who are orphaned in the 1918 flu pandemic,
14 and a lot of that is very real to us right now as we're
15 facing Covid, but the fact of the matter is all of our
16 contemporary tribal families descend from these
17 children who survived the epidemic when the majority of
18 our adults died in our community. For that reason we
19 take our jobs very seriously to fight for what little
20 is left. And in that regard we're talking about the
21 traditional practice here today of using a snowmachine
22 to position an animal, the traditional practice of
23 positioning and aligning the current regulation with
24 the contemporary practice of using modern technology.
25 Not only will this -- adopting this regulation
26 acknowledge that the customary ways of hunting are
27 still used today in combination with our modern
28 technologies but it will also decriminalize our people.

29
30 The Board book, on Page 880, starts
31 with talking about how it is fundamentally impossible
32 -- fundamentally impossible to hunt for caribou in the
33 open flat terrain that characterizes much of
34 Southwestern Alaska without continually moving and
35 herding caribou, which easily (indiscernible-muffled)
36 and do not remain stationary. Further on in the Board
37 book it goes on to say, that hunters now fear being
38 criminalized for this traditional practice. Well, we
39 know the reality of the situation is that it's not just
40 hunters fearing this, our people have been cited for
41 using this traditional method to feed their families
42 and communities, and that needs to stop.

43
44 Today we ask the Federal Subsistence
45 Board to adopt Wildlife Proposal 20-27 pursuant to
46 ANILCA Section .801, that calls for the continuation of
47 opportunity for subsistence uses, which is essential to
48 meet a physical, economic, traditional and cultural
49 existence, essential to our existence, and our non-
50

1 Native relatives, family members that live in these
2 communities, it's essential to their physical,
3 economic, traditional and social existence, and it's
4 important that we note that because that social fabric
5 really ties our communities together.

6
7 Furthermore, ANILCA Section .811(b)
8 permits the use of snowmachines, snowmobiles,
9 technically, for subsistence purposes subject to
10 reasonable regulations. We believe that Wildlife
11 Proposal 20-27 is such that reasonable regulation and
12 as such should be adopted today.

13
14 Thank you for your time.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
17 Courtenay. Any Board members have questions or
18 discussion for Courtenay.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
23 thank you, Courtenay, for calling in and giving us your
24 tribe's perspective on that on the proposal. You have
25 a good day today.

26
27 MS. CARTY: Thank you so much.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, did
30 anybody else sign on for this proposal.

31
32 OPERATOR: Yes, we have two more. Our
33 next one is Gayla Hoseth, your line is open.

34
35 MS. HOSETH: Hi, good morning, again,
36 Mr. Chair and members of the Board. Gayla Hoseth for
37 the record, Second Chief of Curyung Tribal Council, and
38 I'm also the director of Natural Resources for Bristol
39 Bay Native Association.

40
41 Well, here we are again, two years
42 later on this proposal for positioning caribou with the
43 use of a snowmachine. This has been a long process for
44 two years, it's actually been a long process for three
45 years as we were writing the proposal, due to the
46 history of why this proposal came to your attention
47 here again today. I wanted to thank Robbin for giving
48 a good overview and history of this proposal and also
49 to make note that all the agencies were at the table
50

1 this second time around on this proposal, with a
2 working group that had everybody who needed to put
3 input and all the concerns were addressed and it would
4 be great to have this proposal lined up with the
5 proposal that we have with the State of Alaska.

6
7 This ways heavy on my heart because of
8 the history of why we're here and the subsistence
9 resource that we have on our land. This proposal
10 shouldn't have failed two years ago. And this is where
11 ANILCA needs to come into play this time when there is
12 a conflict.

13
14 I wanted to thank the Board for the
15 action that was taken yesterday to get clearer
16 direction on issues where Federal agencies have
17 conflicting regulations and to allow us to
18 traditionally hunt on our lands and following ANILCA.
19 I want you to reference our tribal comments we had
20 during the government to government tribal
21 consultations, as you guys deliberate, I know some of
22 the Board members were on the phone and I thank you for
23 that, I think we spent a lot of time discussing this in
24 our government to government consultation and that is
25 open for discussion that we're authorizing that to be
26 read on the record.

27
28 Bristol Bay Native Corporation also
29 submitted comments and I don't know if Mr. Cheyette is
30 on the phone as second up in cue, but I also emailed
31 those comments to be part of the record from Bristol
32 Bay Native Corporation because when it was called if
33 there was any written comments, they were not
34 referenced, so I emailed those, so if those could also
35 be read into the record if BBNC is not able to call
36 into this phone line.

37
38 So I'm asking that you guys support
39 this proposal and I look forward to hearing how the
40 deliberation will go and thank you for this time.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 Does that conclude your testimony, Gayla?

44
45 MS. HOSETH: It did, thank you, Mr.
46 Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
49 that and appreciate you taking the time to call in and
50

1 express your concerns and support for the proposal.
2 Any questions or comments from the Board.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I
7 appreciate you calling today. Operator, was there any
8 other public on the line.

9
10 OPERATOR: And we have one more at this
11 time. Our next one is Daniel Cheyette, your line is
12 open.

13
14 MR. CHEYETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
15 members of the Board. I appreciate the opportunity to
16 provide some comments on Wildlife Proposal 20-27 on
17 behalf of Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

18
19 As Gayla just mentioned, I did file, or
20 submit written comments through the subsistence@fws.gov
21 website and I hope they do ultimately get received and
22 included in part of the deliberations.

23
24 BBNA is the for profit corporation
25 authorized by Congress pursuant to the Alaska Native
26 Claims Settlement Act to represent the economic,
27 social, and cultural interests of the Alaska Native
28 peoples from the Bristol Bay region. As part of our
29 mission we are committed to protecting the Native
30 culture and the subsistence way of life of our more
31 than 10,000 shareholders, many of whom live in Bristol
32 Bay and who participate in subsistence in Game
33 Management Unit 17. And I want to reiterate the
34 comments that all the other folks that have
35 participated here telephonically today have already
36 made. I believe they have done a really great job in
37 terms of conveying to you the importance of this
38 proposal and the customary practice of positioning
39 themselves to harvest caribou using snowmachine and
40 therefore this proposal is incredibly important to the
41 region and the people who are utilizing Game Management
42 Unit 17.

43
44 As is described in the materials and as
45 the OSM Staff described here today on the phone, the
46 proposal is consistent with State Game regulations for
47 Unit 17 and existing statewide Federal regulations that
48 exist in other Game Management Units, so adoption of
49 this proposal, in addition to being important to the
50

1 subsistence users will also make the regulations more
2 consistent, both within the Game Management Unit and
3 between this Game Management Unit and others, so it's
4 beneficial to both the subsistence harvesters as well
5 as the game managers -- the managers and the
6 enforcement personnel. As is also described in the
7 materials and, again, on the phone today, adoption of
8 the proposal is not likely to have an impact on the
9 population of caribou, I know there were concerns
10 raised by one of the other Advisory Councils about the
11 population of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, but because
12 managers have the ability to adjust harvest levels and
13 the seasons, the adoption of this proposal is not
14 likely to have an appreciable impact on those
15 population numbers.

16
17 So, again, joining with the other folks
18 that have commented today, the tribes and tribal
19 organizations that have put forth this proposal and are
20 in support of it, BBNC joins with them and asks the
21 Board to adopt this proposal today. It would be of
22 great benefit to the folks of Bristol Bay who rely on
23 caribou from this Game Management Unit.

24
25 While I have the microphone I also
26 wanted to echo the comments that the Board heard
27 earlier today from Courtenay Carty, Gayla Hoseth and
28 Cody Larson regarding the need for a Section .810
29 analysis of the 17(b) easement that would be impacted
30 by the development of the Pebble transportation
31 corridor. Bristol Bay Native Corporation is the land
32 owner throughout much of all the transportation
33 corridor alternatives, those easements burden our lands
34 but, yet, we also appreciate as I've just described the
35 need for our shareholders to have access to Federal
36 lands for subsistence and the impacts from this
37 particular project, there is no doubt, would be
38 significant, and, therefore, we agree with those other
39 commenters about the need for an .810 analysis of those
40 impacts, and we believe it is incumbent on the BLM, as
41 the manager of those easements, to insist with the
42 Corps that it be done and that it be included in part
43 of the ongoing NEPA process.

44
45 So I appreciate the opportunity to
46 provide comment on both this current wildlife proposal
47 that's under consideration as well as the need for an
48 .810 analysis of the 17(b) easements and the Pebble
49 transportation corridor.

50

1 Mr. Chair, thank you very much.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
5 Thank you for calling in and taking the time today to
6 support the proposal. Any questions from the Board,
7 discussion.

8

9

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
hearing none, Operator does that include our on line
public members?

OPERATOR: We had one more come in, if
you'd like to take that now.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we'll take
that now.

OPERATOR: And Karen Linnell, your line
is open.

MS. LINNELL: Good morning, thank you.
Karen Linnell, Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

I know I've spoken with you folks at
the tribal consultation but I do want to get it on the
record with this proposal, that I am in support of this
proposal and the positioning of caribou.

I was serving on the Alaska Board of
Game when this was brought to the State for
deliberation and the Alaska Board of Game went in
support of this. The terrain there is very different
from my area, in that, there are no rolling hills for
folks to get around or behind the herd when they're
there, it's very, very flat. And I believe I told you
the subsistence coordinator for the State, Hazel
Nelson, had said if my dog ran away today, you could
still see it running tomorrow, that's how flat it is.

And I want to say that positioning of
animals is nothing new and it's been done by probably
all of you when you do a moose call or a caribou call
or a duck call or I've seen in the Lower 48 where
people get dropped off on one side of a field and then
they let their dogs loose on the other, and for you
bird hunters going after grouse and what not, and you
have a bird dog and you use your bird dogs, that's

1 positioning an animal, so this positioning of animals
2 is being done in other units as well.

3

4 So I just want to support this proposal
5 as you go through your deliberations. So I just want
6 to thank you for your time.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Karen, for calling in today, appreciate that. Any
10 questions from the Board or discussion.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
15 appreciate that. And if there is no other public on
16 line at this time we will move on.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: This is Katya Wessels.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
25 Katya.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: We just received an
28 additional written public comment for Wildlife Proposal
29 20-27, may I present it at this time?

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, please do,
32 Katya.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: We just received a
35 written public comment in the support of Wildlife
36 Proposal 20-27 from Bristol Bay Native Corporation that
37 submitted a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board in
38 regard to that and they say that they support the
39 Wildlife Proposal 20-27 regarding the use of
40 snowmachine to take caribou in Game Management Unit 17.

41

42 And this is the end of the written
43 public comment on 20-27, thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Oh, I'm sorry, Mr.
48 Chairman, I didn't go to the second page, they actually
49 have a longer letter, my apologies.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, you still
2 have the floor Katya.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: So they also say that the
5 Wildlife Proposal 20-27, if adopted, would allow
6 subsistence users to use snowmachines to hunt caribou
7 so long as hunters only shoot caribou from stationary
8 machine. This proposal is supported by both the
9 Bristol Bay and Western Interior Advisory Councils as
10 well as by Office of Subsistence Management Staff.

11
12 The proposal is consistent with State
13 game regulations for Unit 17 and existing statewide
14 Federal regulations and is consistent with existing
15 Federal regulations in other game units, accordingly,
16 adoption of this proposal would reduce regulatory
17 complexity across State and Federally- managed areas
18 and would benefit both subsistence users and law
19 enforcement personnel without encouraging prohibited
20 activities; for example, the use of snowmachine to
21 herd, drive, or molest wildlife. For these reasons
22 BBNC supports WP20-27 and encourages the Federal
23 Subsistence Board to adopt it.

24
25 The lone critic of this proposal is the
26 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Advisory Council that is
27 concerned about the recent decline of the Mulchatna
28 Caribou Herd. These concerns, however, is at odds with
29 the conclusions of OSM Staff, who believes the proposal
30 would not significantly alter caribou populations in
31 Unit 17 because snowmachines are already extensively
32 used to access hunting areas and State and Federal
33 managers will control harvest levels by manipulating
34 the seasons and limits.

35
36 BBNC urges the Federal Subsistence
37 Board to adopt this proposal as recommended by Bristol
38 Bay and Western Interior Advisory Councils and OSM
39 Staff.

40
41 This concludes the presentation of the
42 written public comment by the Bristol Bay Native
43 Corporation.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
48 the update, Katya.

49
50

1 Okay, with that we'll move on to
2 Regional Advisory Council recommendation, Chair.

3
4 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you. This
5 is Nanci Morris Lyon, Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
6 Council Chair. Can you hear me just fine?

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Got you good,
9 Nanci, you have the floor.

10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay, thank you. And
12 I would also like to thank my neighbors out here in the
13 district that have called in on this.

14
15 We had a list of hunters in the area
16 that are very highly regarded and if you've ever heard
17 from an A Team it was today so please take their
18 testimony to heart.

19
20 We supported WP20-27. We feel it will
21 clarify the Federal hunting regulations. It will align
22 it with the recent State of Alaska hunting regulations
23 and reduce regulatory complexity between State and
24 Federal regulation. The Council supports the proposal
25 stating that using snowmachines to assist in taking a
26 caribou and allowing caribou to be shot from a
27 stationary snowmachine is a longstanding practice among
28 rural residents of our region and any conservation
29 concerns can be addressed through regulatory changes to
30 protect the caribou herd if necessary.

31
32 I would also like to add that Mr.
33 Nukwuk, who was on the phone this morning, and he has
34 spent years in working with us, as you heard, we
35 declined the proposal ourselves, and we had serious
36 concerns to make sure that we were not having --
37 turning our residents into law breakers by not having
38 clear understanding before we finally passed this
39 proposal. We have literally worked for years on this
40 and everybody has put a lot of time and energy into it
41 and a lot of hard thought out covering every which
42 direction we can to make sure this is complete. We
43 were very disappointed when it was not accepted last
44 year. And we recognize that our neighbors from the
45 Yukon Kuskokwim are opposing this proposal but their
46 justification has more to do with conservation of the
47 caribou than it does with the actual proposal, and,
48 while we understand and 100 percent sympathize with
49 conservation efforts on this caribou herd as it is the
50

1 main supplement for our diets out here as well, this
2 proposal is not addressing the caribou, it is a method
3 and means proposal, and we think it should be separated
4 from that.

5
6 I would also ask that those of you on
7 the Board consider very carefully if your vote is
8 coming from your own company policy on how you may want
9 to proceed forward and if you, maybe, should consider
10 not placing a vote, because ANILCA does allow for this.

11
12 And with that I will conclude my
13 testimony.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
18 questions for Nanci from the Board, discussion.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I
23 appreciate it. We'll move on to tribal Alaska Native
24 Corporation comments, Native Liaison, Orville.

25
26 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chair, can
27 you hear me?

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I got you loud
30 and clear.

31
32 MR. LIND: Good morning, Federal
33 Subsistence Board members, Regional Advisory Council
34 Chairs. My name is Orville Lind. I'm the Native
35 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management.

36
37 First of all, I would just like to
38 thank the tribal leaders and corporate leaders to chime
39 in this morning. I thought the public comment session
40 is what we look forward to and it has gotten a lot more
41 involved, so, again, my thanks go out to the tribal
42 leaders.

43
44 During the session we had tribal
45 consultation and ANCSA session on September 30th, we
46 did not have any comments to Wildlife Proposal 20-27.

47
48 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Orville. We'll move on to the Alaska Department of
3 Fish and Game, State Liaison.
4

5 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 For the record Fish and Game is neutral on this
7 proposal, and I'm sure you're noting that usually when
8 it comes to aligning State and Federal regulations we
9 do support those efforts. But in this regard we are
10 just a neutral stance to point out our concerns over
11 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and what enacting this
12 regulation may do for the level of disturbance and what
13 that means for energetic demands on that herd given its
14 low levels. But no way are we standing in the way of
15 the Board if their desire is to pass this proposal.
16

17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, this is
20 Jack Reakoff, Chair of WIRAC.
21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Jack, you
23 have the floor.
24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, Western Interior
26 and YKDelta sees these proposals also because we have
27 customary and traditional use from some membership in
28 our region.
29

30 The Council supported WP20-27 and one
31 of the members was concerned about the decline of the
32 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, but in our discussion, the
33 seasons and bag limits address the conservation
34 concerns. This is a methods and means of regulation,
35 and so -- for the use of Sno-Gos for taking caribou.
36 And this proposal actually addresses the harassment
37 issue that was posed with the use of snowmachines or
38 Sno-Go for taking caribou.
39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
43 Jack. Any other questions for the State, comments.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
48 we'll move on to the InterAgency Staff Committee
49 comments, ISC Chair.
50

1 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 It's Suzanne Worker. I just want to point out that we
3 missed one of the Regional Advisory Councils for WP20-
4 27, and I believe Alissa Rogers for the YKRAC is on the
5 phone.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, go ahead.

8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I didn't
12 realize there was another one, thank you for that,
13 Suzanne.

14
15 MS. ROGERS: Hello, can you hear me?

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Alissa,
18 you have the floor.

19
20 MS. ROGERS: All right, thank you,
21 sorry about that. Yeah, this is Alissa Rogers, the
22 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory
23 Council, Madame Chair.

24
25 And our Council had opposed WP20-27 for
26 the main purpose that there was overriding concerns
27 about the recent dramatic decline of the Mulchatna
28 Caribou Herd and at this time the Council didn't feel
29 it was an appropriate time to be discussing hunting
30 methods to give an optical illusion of the ability to
31 go out hunting. We definitely are in support of the
32 Bristol Bay region and them wanting to clean up
33 language, but, because we had such drastic concerns
34 about and taking such drastic measures to close this
35 herd, especially on Unit 18 side, we support the
36 Mulchatna Caribou's recovery and we want to avoid any
37 further harm to the herd that would cause by stress or
38 being pursued by snowmachine or any type of hunting or
39 methods.

40
41 After listening to the current comments
42 and the main focus of this proposal, in my personal
43 opinion, it sounds really, really good and I wished we
44 knew this at the time when we were discussing this
45 because if we would take it away from actually
46 distinguishing between caribou and just as a clean up
47 language, I'm sure this would have been totally
48 different and my guess is that there were a lot of
49 other Councils and publics that had viewed that just
50

1 the way that we viewed it, but my Council had come
2 across -- we opposed this because we are very concerned
3 about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and giving the optics
4 that if we're going to start allowing snowmachine
5 hunters then there might be an incline to actually go
6 hunting more while we're trying to keep this herd
7 closed for recovery of the population.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Alissa. Any questions or comments for Alissa from the
13 Board.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
18 Alissa for that. Any other Regional Advisory Council
19 Chairs.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
24 hearing none.....

25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: No, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, was that
29 you Tom.

30

31 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair, it's Suzanne.
32 I think we got them all.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank you
35 very much. We'll move on to InterAgency Staff
36 Committee comments, ISC Chair.

37

38 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 This is Suzanne Worker.

40

41 The InterAgency Staff Committee agrees
42 with the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory
43 Council's recommendation to adopt this proposal, which
44 provides specific guidance about how snowmachines can
45 be used to harvest caribou and reduces uncertainty for
46 users.

47

48 Testimony from local subsistence users
49 and members of the Bristol Cay Council supported the

50

1 clarification of how snowmachines can be used to
2 position hunters while harvesting caribou in these
3 regions. Such equipment has long been used for these
4 purposes and more specific regulations would help them
5 continue these traditions while reducing the concerns
6 about potential enforcement actions.

7
8 Though the Yukon Delta Subsistence
9 Regional Advisory Council opposed the adoption of this
10 proposal due to their concerns about the conservation
11 status of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, it is important
12 to note that the proposed regulation does not allow any
13 practices not currently allowed under Federal
14 regulations, rather it provides specific guidelines
15 that may be useful to subsistence users as they judge
16 whether their hunting practices are lawful.

17
18 The proposed regulation is consistent
19 with existing State regulations addressing the use of
20 snowmachines to harvest caribou in Unit 17. Adoption
21 of this proposal will reduce regulatory complexity
22 across State and Federal jurisdictions which will
23 benefit both subsistence users and law enforcement
24 officials.

25
26 In addition, the proposed regulation is
27 consistent with the existing statewide Federal
28 regulation which prohibits the use of motorized
29 vehicles to drive, herd or molest wildlife. Adopting
30 this proposal would support the intent of that
31 regulation as well as other Federal agency specific
32 regulations that have similar language and intent.

33
34 It is notable that the Board has
35 previously approved regulations specifying how
36 snowmachines can be used for caribou hunting in other
37 units and that these have been implemented to address
38 both subsistence needs and enforcement concerns. The
39 Board may also want to consider a more universal
40 approach to identifying the appropriate use of
41 snowmachines for harvest of animals by Federally-
42 qualified subsistence users. Creation of regulations
43 that are enforceable, are compatible with existing
44 Federal and State regulations and allow efficient
45 harvest may be worth further discussion and evaluation.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 That concludes the ISC comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
2 questions, comments for the ISC Staff.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
7 we'll open the floor for Board discussion with Council
8 Chairs and State Liaison.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
13 we'll open the floor for Federal Board action on this
14 proposal.

15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
17 Siekaniec with Fish and Wildlife Service.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, you have
20 the floor.

21
22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 I would like to move to adopt Proposal WP20-27. The
24 proposed language is shown on Page 873 of the Board
25 book. Following a second, I will provide justification
26 for why I intend to support my motion.

27
28 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

29
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. It is clear
31 from a long history of public testimony in addition to
32 Council and Board meeting discussions the use of
33 snowmachines for subsistence purposes is a traditional
34 practice statewide. This proposal supports the Bristol
35 Bay Regional Advisory Council effort to find a solution
36 to develop clear regulatory language for use of
37 snowmachines to harvest caribou.

38
39 The proposal is also supported by the
40 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.

41
42 I commend the Bristol Bay Regional
43 Advisory Council for their efforts to develop a
44 solution that involves input from a diverse group of
45 people and agencies through the working group. The
46 regulatory language provided in this proposal is
47 enforceable and clearly articulates how hunters may use
48 snowmachines to assist in the taking of caribou while
49 remaining in compliance with existing regulations.

50

1 In addition, the regulation also aligns
2 with State regulation, which will reduce regulatory
3 confusion that may have existed on the land.
4

5 Adoption of this proposal will reduce
6 the uncertainty for hunters regarding legal use of
7 snowmachines.
8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Greg. The floor is open for Board discussion,
13 deliberation.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 MR. C. BROWER: Question.
18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
20 called. We'll do roll call, Tom, please.
21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. One note of clarification, I want to make sure
24 to see if Casey Burns is on line as Chad Padgett's
25 proxy at the moment.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
30 Casey Burns on line?
31

32 OPERATOR: Yes, let me open his line.
33 One moment. And Casey Burns your line is open.
34

35 MR. BURNS: Thanks.
36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: And, Casey, you're with
38 us as.....
39

40 MR. BURNS: Yes, I'm here now. I *1
41 and I'm in. Can you hear me?
42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, just fine, thank
44 you.
45

46 MR. BURNS: All right, thank you.
47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: We're doing the roll
49 call vote on WP20-27.
50

1 This is WP20-27 which requests a unit
2 specific regulation for Unit 17 allowing use of a
3 snowmachine to assist in the taking of a caribou and
4 allowing caribou to be shot from a stationary
5 snowmachine using the regulatory language adopted by
6 the Alaska Board of Game, which you can see on Page 870
7 of your book.

8
9 We'll start off with U.S. Fish and
10 Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec.

11
12 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. Yes, I
13 support in deference to the Bristol Bay and Western
14 Interior Advisory Councils, and for the justification I
15 provided.

16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
18 Greg.

19
20 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

21
22 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, the Bureau of Indian
23 Affairs votes to support the proposal and recognizing
24 deference to the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
25 and Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. In
26 addition to, it is in direct conflict with the
27 recommendation from the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory
28 Council, although we think their concerns could be more
29 appropriately addressed by seasons and bag limit
30 limitations as opposed to a method and means approach,
31 in addition to the appropriate agency specific
32 regulatory oversight.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
37 Gene.

38
39 Rhonda Pitka.

40
41 MS. PITKA: I support in deference to
42 the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and the
43 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

48
49 Charlie Brower.

50

1 MR. C. BROWER: I support WP20-27 as
2 recommended by OSM and Western Interior and the Bristol
3 Bay Advisory Council.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

8
9 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

10
11 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I support WP20-27
12 with the justification provided by the Fish and
13 Wildlife Service as well as in deference to the Bristol
14 Bay and Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils,
15 and share the same opinion that the BIA offered with
16 the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta's opposition to this
17 proposal.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
22 Dave.

23
24 National Park Service, Donald Striker.

25
26 MR. STRIKER: National Park Service
27 supports for the reasons articulated by Fish and
28 Wildlife, Greg, and in deference to the two RACs, and
29 also in deference to the broad local support. And I'd
30 just like to comment how much I really appreciated the
31 time of all the folks who took the opportunity to call
32 in and help clarify this issue for me.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
37 Don.

38
39 Bureau of Land Management, Casey Burns.

40
41 MR. BURNS: Yes, BLM will support with
42 the justification provided by the Fish and Wildlife
43 Service and in deference to the Bristol Bay and Western
44 Interior Councils.

45
46 Thanks.

47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
49 Casey.

50

1 And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
4 deference to the two RACs that supported.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: The motion passes
9 unanimously. Thank you. And it looks like we're going
10 to go on, Mr. Chair, to WP20-26.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, and we'll
13 call on the Staff to give us the analysis.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Hello, Mr. Chair and
18 members of the Board, can you hear me?

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we hear
21 you fine.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: Excellent. Okay. So once
24 again my name is Robbin Lavine and I'm an
25 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management.
26 The analysis for Wildlife Proposal 20-26 begins on Page
27 847 of your Board book.

28

29 Wildlife Proposal 20-26 was submitted
30 by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council. The
31 proposal requests that Federally-qualified subsistence
32 users be allowed to use a snowmachine to position
33 wolves and wolverines for harvest on Bureau of Land
34 Management lands in Units 9B, 9C, 17B and 17C provided
35 the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine.

36

37 The proponent states that the use of
38 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines is a
39 traditional practice in rural areas and the proposed
40 regulation will mirror Federal regulations in Unit 23.

41

42 Currently the wolf population in Units
43 9 and 17 is believed to be stable. Less is known about
44 the resident wolverine population, and this change in
45 regulation could result in increased biological
46 vulnerability. From those who reported harvest, the
47 majority of wolves harvested in the most recent five
48 year reporting period were taken by firearm, while the
49 majority of wolverine harvest over the same years was

50

1 by trapping. The proposed regulation may not result in
2 an increase in harvest by trap or snare, however such
3 regulatory changes could increase the take of wolves
4 and wolverines by firearm and may result in more
5 opportunistic harvest. If this proposal were to pass,
6 the regulations for the use of snowmachines when
7 harvesting wolves or wolverines would be different on
8 State managed lands, however, this is already the case
9 and should the proposal be adopted it would not add
10 regulatory complexity that does not already exist.

11
12 Specifically in State regulations a
13 snowmachine may be used to position a hunter to select
14 an individual wolf for harvest, and wolves may be shot
15 from a stationary snowmachine. If this proposal were
16 to pass then in Federal regulations, a snowmachine
17 could be used to position a wolf and wolverine for
18 harvest and either could be shot from a stationary
19 snowmachine.

20
21 Finally, for the use of snowmachines
22 for subsistence purposes these are -- this is a
23 traditional practice in the Bristol Bay area and
24 statewide, it is important to note that the Board
25 adopted a similar regulation in Unit 23 in recognition
26 of the snowmachine as a customary and traditional
27 method of harvest.

28
29 The OSM conclusion is to support
30 Proposal 20-26.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
35 question for the Staff on the presentation.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
40 move to summary of public comment, Regional Council
41 Coordinator.

42
43 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
44 members of the Board. Katya Wessels, OSM, for the
45 record.

46
47 We received two written public comments
48 on Wildlife Proposal 20-26. One in support and one in
49 opposition.

50

1 The first comment, the one in
2 opposition came from Alaskans for Wildlife and any
3 Cooperating Entities. They allege that positioning of
4 wildlife for harvest will result in chasing and
5 harassing wildlife to exhaustion. They also claim that
6 it would be impossible to enforce the regulations
7 related to positioning and the Alaskan Wildlife
8 Troopers do not understand the regulations which will
9 result in widespread abuse. This, in turn, will give
10 subsistence the reputation of abuse when it really
11 needs public support.

12
13 The second comment that we received
14 came from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation and the
15 Corporation conditionally supports Wildlife Proposal
16 20-26 regarding the use of snowmachines to position
17 wolves and wolverines for harvest but urges the Board
18 to expand the application of the proposal to all
19 Federal lands within the applicable Game Management
20 Units.

21
22 And since we received these comments at
23 the last minute, I will have to read it in their
24 entirety, I didn't have time to summarize them so sorry
25 about that.

26
27 BBNC says that, if adopted as proposed
28 WP20-26 would allow subsistence users to use
29 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines in Game
30 Management Units 17B and 17C on BLM managed lands only.
31 BBNC joins with other Bristol Bay area tribes and
32 tribal organizations to urge the Board to apply this
33 proposal more broadly to additional Federal lands
34 within Game Management Unit 17.

35
36 As has been described in the meeting
37 materials, BLM manages very little land in Game
38 Management Unit 17B and 17C. One percent in 17B and 10
39 percent in 17C. It follows that adoption of this
40 proposals as is would apply very limited additional
41 benefit to subsistence users. It is also true that
42 application of proposal 20-26 more broadly across other
43 Federal public lands in Unit 17B and 17C while
44 benefitting subsistence users would not significantly
45 threaten the wolf or wolverine populations because
46 there is little additional Federal lands in these
47 units. Specifically, a limited amount of lands on the
48 west side of Unit 17C that is part of the Togiak
49 National Wildlife Refuge and an even smaller amount of
50

1 acreage of the east side of Unit 17B that is part of
2 Lake Clark National Park. Simply put, the relatively
3 small amount of Federally-managed acres in these two
4 Game Management Units belie concerns about threats of
5 the wolf and wolverine populations in these units that
6 a broader application of this proposal could cost.
7

8 More pointedly, the apparent reluctance
9 to apply Wildlife Proposal 20-26 to lands within Game
10 Management Units 17B and 17C managed by either the U.S.
11 Fish and Wildlife Service or National Park Service
12 contravenes the clear mandate of ANILCA, Title VIII.
13 The meeting materials suggest this proposal cannot be
14 applied across lands managed by either of those two
15 agencies because agency specific regulations
16 promulgated by both of those agencies preclude the use
17 of snowmachine to position animals. As is described
18 above, such regulation should yield to rural Alaskan
19 subsistence needs. Congress enacted Title VIII to
20 protect subsistence uses of resources on Federal lands
21 by rural subsistence users. This specific directive
22 from Congress shall prevail over agency promulgated
23 regulatory provisions that precludes the use of
24 snowmachines to position animals on Park and Refuge
25 land. First the Board has concluded that the use of
26 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines is a
27 customary and traditional subsistence practice, and
28 second, that Game Management Units 17B and 17C do not
29 encompass vast acreage of Federal lands such as that
30 application of these proposals -- proposal on Refuge
31 and Park Service lands is unlikely to have significant
32 impacts to wolves and wolverine populations, and,
33 third, Congress expressed the clear intent to protect
34 the subsistence use of resources on Federal public
35 lands in enacting Title VIII of ANILCA. The Board
36 should apply Wildlife Proposal 20-26 across all Federal
37 lands in Game Management Units 17B and 17C.
38

39 That concludes my presentation of the
40 written public comments for Wildlife Proposal 20-26.
41

42 Thank you.
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
45 Katya. With that we'll open up the floor to public
46 testimony we have on line.
47

48 OPERATOR: And, again, for those who
49 would like to make comment you may press *1, and our
50

1 first question or comment comes from Robbin Chaney,
2 your line is open.

3

4 MS. CHANEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
5 would just like to reiterate a lot of my first comment
6 on the prior proposal, and, again, I'm also testifying
7 on behalf of my son who couldn't stay on the line all
8 morning.

9

10 We are in favor of this proposal as it
11 decriminalizes traditional hunting practices here as
12 they hunt on snowmachines. But our hunters here, my
13 family hunt efficiently and respectfully of these
14 animals as possible, and if you are a hunter you
15 understand that it's very dynamic, animals aren't
16 static, hunters aren't static, and the main thing is
17 that you have to be safe and respectful of the animal
18 that you're harvesting.

19

20 To my understanding, the land that this
21 affects is very small and would align with regulations
22 in all of the surrounding land but we -- our family is
23 in favor of this proposal.

24

25 Quyana.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
28 other on line -- thank you for that comment, anybody
29 else on line, Operator.

30

31 OPERATOR: And we have one more at this
32 time from Courtenay Carty, your line is open.

33

34 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
35 members of the Board, for your service and this
36 opportunity.

37

38 The Curyung Tribe would just like to
39 reiterate our comments in regards to the traditional
40 and customary use of -- I guess, use of snowmachine now
41 in these modern times, but the practice of positioning
42 animals, we do support this proposal and would support
43 the amendment of opening it to be applicable on all
44 Federal lands in Bristol Bay.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Courtenay. Any questions or comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
4 testifying. Operator, was there anybody else on line
5 who would like to testify to this proposal.

6

7 OPERATOR: We had another one come in
8 from Gayla Hoeseth, your line is open.

9

10 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. Hello again,
11 everybody, members of the Board. Gayla Hoeseth, Second
12 Chief, Curyung Tribal Council and also director of
13 Natural Resources for Bristol Bay Native Association.

14

15 I wanted to extend my thank you for the
16 actions that were taken on WP20-27, it's been a long
17 process, like I stated in my last testimony.

18

19 WP20-26 falls along the same lines of
20 my last testimony of what I testified on, and I would
21 just ask for the Board to consider opening this up to
22 all Federal land in Game Management Units 9B, 9C, 17B
23 and 17C due to the fact that there are only four
24 percent of BLM lands within the Bristol Bay region.

25

26 This also was written and submitted by
27 the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
28 and just appreciate all the work that has been put into
29 these efforts to allow for our traditional ways of
30 hunting to be in regulation.

31

32 And thank you for hearing our voices
33 and thank you to everybody who called in and testified
34 in support of our traditional ways of life.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
39 those comments. Appreciate you taking the time to call
40 in. Anybody else on line, Operator, who would like to
41 speak to this proposal.

42

43 OPERATOR: And I have no more in cue at
44 this time.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. All
47 right, that will conclude our public testimony on this
48 proposal. We'll move on to the Regional Advisory
49 Council recommendation, Chair.

50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you. Nanci
2 Morris Lyon, Bristol Bay Regional Subsistence Advisory
3 Council Chair.

4
5 We support WP20-26. The use of
6 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines for
7 harvest is a traditional and common practice in the
8 Bristol Bay area. No conservation concerns exist for
9 wolf and wolverine. The proposed regulation clarifies
10 what is allowed. The local users support the use of
11 snowmachines to position wolves and wolverines for the
12 harvest on BLM lands. The Federal Subsistence Board
13 adopted a similar regulation in Unit 23 recognizing
14 snowmachine is a customary and traditional harvest
15 method.

16
17 And I would, again, thank my regional
18 users for calling in and supporting these proposals,
19 it's certainly a big help and I would also add that
20 without the rest of my Council here I cannot speak on
21 their behalf, but, I, too, agree with BBNCs analysis
22 that to make this region-wide would make a lot of sense
23 and I would not have a sense that it would be disagreed
24 with amongst my Council members.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
29 Nanci. Any questions for the Chair from the Board.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm not going
34 to mess it up this time. Is there another Regional
35 Council Chair for this one?

36
37 MS. ROGERS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
38 Alissa Rogers with the YKDelta Subsistence Regional
39 Advisory Council.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
42 floor.

43
44 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 Through the Chair, my name is Alissa Nadine Rogers and
46 I'm the Madame Chair of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
47 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

48
49 Our Council is in support of WP20-26.

50

1 The Council supports this proposal because it would
2 increase opportunity for subsistence hunters to harvest
3 a wolf or wolverine. Ample wolf land wolverine
4 populations in the area may help to reduce predator
5 pressure, snowmachine is transportation for hunters and
6 fishers and this proposal would allow additional
7 opportunity to harvest wolf or wolverine.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Jack
12 Reakoff, WIRAC.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, you have
15 the floor, Jack.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: Western Interior Regional
18 Council unanimously supported WP20-26. We have
19 residents in our region that have C&T. The travel
20 conditions are becoming more difficult due to climate
21 change and using snowmachines allows users to access
22 resources in a more economically viable way. This
23 proposal would only affect a very small portion of BLM
24 land, but it would have alignment with the State
25 regulations and so I feel that in the future, for the
26 next round, that this may be a statewide proposal where
27 snowmachines are used.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
32 Jack. Is there any other Council Chairs who wish to
33 speak to this proposal.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
38 we'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation
39 comments, Native Liaison Orville Lind.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
44 Orville available.

45

46 OPERATOR: One moment. I do show that
47 he has disconnected. One moment, there he is. And,
48 Orville, your line is open.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Operator.

3
4 OPERATOR: And, again, Orville Lind,
5 your line is open.

6
7 MR. LIND: Thank you. Can you hear me
8 now? Can you hear me now?

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, I got you
11 loud and clear Orville, you have the floor.

12
13 MR. LIND: I just dropped off here but
14 I'm glad to be back on.

15
16 It is my turn, correct?

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
19 the floor.

20
21 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 Federal Subsistence Board members and Regional Advisory
23 Council Chairs. My name is Orville Lind, Native
24 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management.

25
26 During the session on 9/30 -- September
27 30th, I'm sorry, consultation, there were no comments
28 made on WP20-26.

29
30 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Orville. Hearing no comments we'll move on to the
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, Liaison.

35
36 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Chairman.
37 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
38 and Game.

39
40 We do not have an issue with the part
41 of the proposal that has to do with positioning wolves,
42 given our own intensive management efforts in the area,
43 allowing hunters to position the animals for harvest
44 would enhance hunter success and aide in the
45 Department's effort to increase moose and caribou
46 survival in these units.

47
48 However, we do oppose the portion that
49 allows the use of snowmachine to position wolverines,
50

1 given their complex life histories, you know, as the
2 proposal acknowledges, any regulation change could
3 increase the harvest of this species and wolverines
4 range widely naturally current low densities and those
5 complex life histories that make them vulnerable to
6 increased harvest, and especially during certain parts
7 of the year when they're in their denning period.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
12 questions from the Board, discussion with the State.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
17 we'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee
18 recommendation comment, ISC Chair.

19

20 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Suzanne Worker.

22

23 The InterAgency Staff Committee has
24 identified several points for the Board to consider in
25 their deliberation of Proposal WP20-26.

26

27 Testimony from members of the Bristol
28 Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and local
29 subsistence users supported the clarification of how
30 snowmachines can be used while harvesting wolves and
31 wolverines in these units. Such equipment has long
32 been used for these purposes and the proposed
33 regulations will help subsistence users continue these
34 traditions while reducing the concerns about potential
35 enforcement action.

36

37 Little is known about wolf or wolverine
38 populations and harvest levels in these units.
39 Wolverines, in particular, occur at low densities and
40 are vulnerable to hunters on snowmachines. Using
41 snowmachines to position and shoot wolverines may
42 present conservation concerns if it results in
43 increased harvest, however, the ISC also noted that
44 harvest of wolves and/or wolverines by rural residents
45 while snowmachining is typically opportunistic, which
46 may limit negative impacts to either species.

47

48 This regulation would apply only on BLM
49 managed lands and would result in regulatory complexity

50

1 across lands of differing Federal status. In addition,
2 BLM managed lands compromise only four percent of Units
3 9 and 17 so this regulation would apply to only a
4 fraction of the total land area. Regulatory complexity
5 between State and Federal regulations would also
6 increase given that State regulations allow a
7 snowmachine to be used to position a hunter to select
8 an individual wolf for harvest, provided the machine is
9 stationary when shooting, but does not allow the same
10 for wolverines.

11
12 It is notable that the Board has
13 previously approved regulations specifying how
14 snowmachines can be used for wolf and wolverine hunting
15 in Unit 23 and that these regulations have also been
16 implemented to address both subsistence needs and
17 enforcement concerns.

18
19 The Board may also want to consider a
20 more universal approach to identifying the appropriate
21 use of snowmachines for harvest of animals by
22 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Creation of
23 regulations that are enforceable, are compatible with
24 existing State and Federal regulations and allow
25 efficient harvest may be worth further discussion and
26 evaluation.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
31 questions from the Board to the ISC.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
36 we'll go to Board discussion with the Chairs and the
37 State Liaison.

38
39 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair, BIA.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, BIA you
42 have the floor. Go ahead, Gene.

43
44 MR. PELTOLA: Good morning, all. So I
45 was wondering if I could ask a question of the Bristol
46 Bay Regional Advisory Council Chair because they're the
47 proponent.

48
49 The proposal as written, as on BLM

50

1 managed lands only, and I was curious, what was the
2 process involved with the RAC to come up with the
3 proposal and why were BLM lands only identified in the
4 proposal?

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I believe
9 that's for Nanci.

10

11 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, correct, sorry about
12 that. Yes, for Nanci.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is Nanci
15 available, Operator, can you make her line open please.

16

17 OPERATOR: One moment, let me
18 locate.....

19

20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, I am available
21 now, my call was dropped.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Gene, do
24 you want to restate your question for Nanci, please.

25

26 MR. PELTOLA: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. Good morning, Nanci, this is Gene at BIA. So I
28 was looking at the proposal and it stipulated that the
29 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council was the
30 proponent, so could you explain to the Board the
31 process that the RAC went through to come up with the
32 proposal, one, and, two, why did you limit -- why did
33 the RAC limit it to BLM managed lands only.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, absolutely. So
38 thank you for the question, Gene. And this proposal
39 was kind of brought along with the caribou proposal.
40 It was pointed out that there was a need for this as
41 well in the region. A lot of the time, while folks are
42 out hunting, caribou or moose, they need to have the
43 ability to harvest our predators as well, and, again,
44 not wanting to be illegal and trying to justify a
45 practice that's been in use already.

46

47 I think it was merely an oversight on
48 our part, we were not targeting, so to speak, BLM
49 lands, by any means, which is why I also stated that I

50

1 felt, even though my Council was not with me today,
2 that they would support increasing it to include the
3 rest of the Federal lands.

4
5 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Nanci,
6 appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
9 Thank you for answering that Nanci.

10
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
14 you have the floor.

15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Greg Siekaniec, Fish
17 and Wildlife Service. Suzanne, when you were providing
18 your ISC thoughts and comments, you had something that
19 I'm -- let me make sure I understand.

20
21 You said that the Board might want to
22 consider a more appropriate, what use or definition,
23 around the use of snowmachines in regulations, could
24 you help me, what you were referring to there a little
25 bit.

26
27 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Siekaniec.
28 Over the years there's been a lot of discussion about
29 the specific language that we use, are we positioning
30 animals, are we positioning hunters, and I believe this
31 comment was in reference to that. Just coming to a
32 common understanding about how we approach these
33 regulations. And this is a discussion that came up
34 during the deliberation two years ago as well as
35 whether or not this, you know, is something that is --
36 should be addressed at a statewide level or is it
37 better handled regionally. So I think the ISC
38 intention is just drawing attention to those issues.

39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Suzanne.
41 Mr. Chair, could I ask one more question.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
44 have the floor.

45
46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Suzanne, I
47 think -- well, we heard earlier that if the Fish and
48 Wildlife Service, and I believe Lake Clark National
49 Park, these were viewed also within this proposal,
50

1 there would be a, now, a conflict between the
2 regulations that exist for Parks and Refuges, but would
3 be in alignment with BLM, but I -- since this proposal
4 did not have those Federal lands included in it, there
5 was -- was there any discussion in the ISC about that?

6
7 MS. WORKER: So I missed the very last
8 part of your question, can you restate that?

9
10 MR. SIEKANIEC: Sure. I said so since
11 this proposal was oriented towards BLM land and in the
12 testimony I heard, that there would be a conflict
13 between Lake Clark National Park land and Togiak land
14 in regulation, did the ISC have any discussions about
15 Togiak lands and Lake Clark National Park land in
16 relation to this?

17
18 MS. WORKER: I don't remember that we
19 had a specific discussion about extending the
20 regulation on to those lands, if that's your question.
21 There is an acknowledgement that it results in
22 regulatory complexity between Federal lands of
23 different status, different management status. Is that
24 what you're asking?

25
26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, thank you, that's
27 what I was asking. So there was no discussion or
28 deliberation on that. Yeah, Mr. Chair, thank you very
29 much for allowing me to ask those questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, thank you.
32 Any other questions from the Board.

33
34 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
37 Charlie.

38
39 MR. C. BROWER: So the Regional Council
40 wants BLM lands but there's a request to go all on
41 Federal lands, will there be a problem with the
42 regulatory regulations with BLM, Wildlife Service, as
43 long as these -- put these together -- or what's the
44 status on that, I have the same concern as Greg, I mean
45 what's going to happen?

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I guess that
48 would be a question that maybe we would have ISC
49 answer.

50

1 MS. WORKER: So Mr. Brower, the
2 question is what happens on Refuge and Park lands if
3 this regulation is implemented; is that correct?
4

5 MR. C. BROWER: Roger.
6

7 MS. WORKER: Nothing would change on
8 those lands. This regulation would apply only to BLM
9 lands. And so use of the snowmachine in this manner to
10 harvest wolves and wolverines would not be allowed on
11 Park and Refuge lands.
12

13 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
16 have the floor.
17

18 MR. PELTOLA: So, Mr. Chair, I brought
19 up the question not necessarily to advocate for one
20 position or another, but I wanted to identify that --
21 and it came to my mind because we did hear a
22 Dillingham, or Bristol Bay region entity express the
23 desire for it to be applied to all Federal lands, but
24 if the Board was to go through this and act upon this
25 proposal, and only address BLM managed lands, and
26 preclude the others, here's the example where
27 opportunity may not be provided, which could have been
28 otherwise, or vice versa, without clear direction and
29 guidance between agency specific and Federal
30 subsistence regulations.
31

32 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
33 Greg.
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
36 have the floor.
37

38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Gene, I agree with what you're thinking about there.
40 And this just reminds me a lot of where we were last
41 time with the WP20-27 that we managed to get, you know,
42 very common language that addressed both, you know, the
43 Fish and Wildlife Service concerns in regards to that
44 and this one seems like it's putting us right back in
45 the same place, so having conflicting regulations and,
46 you know, with language that was similar to what we had
47 just passed, I think we could avoid that.
48

49 So, thank you.
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yes, I
2 agree, Greg. So the options, if the Board wanted to
3 proceed and get closer to being inclusive rather than
4 exclusive, the agency making the motion could reword
5 the motion to more clearly align with the caribou regs
6 which were just passed, or if it's felt that it could
7 not be done within the timeframe of this meeting, do a
8 thorough, such that that could be appropriately
9 addressed in the manner to be more acceptable.

10

11 Does that make sense?

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg.

16

17 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
20 Greg and then Ken.

21

22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Gene, I
23 absolutely agree with you, I think you hit, you know,
24 the nail kind of right on the head, from the standpoint
25 of trying to get a better alignment might be best made
26 to a deferral where we can come back with this quicker,
27 rather than waiting for the next wildlife meeting.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ken, you have
32 the floor.

33

34 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. I would also
35 urge the Board, if they want to go down this path of a
36 deferral, which would give the Staff time to analyze
37 the impacts on Fish and Wildlife Service and Park
38 Service lands, right now the administrative record
39 doesn't have any such analysis, and we would certainly
40 be in a better position from a defensibility
41 perspective if they were given an opportunity to put
42 that analysis together.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ken.

47

48 MR. BURNS: This is Casey with BLM.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
2 the floor.

3
4 MR. BURNS: So we had prepared a
5 motion, working with Chad on this, but we had also
6 talked about deferral and, yeah, I feel a little bit
7 uncertain, you know, not being the official Board
8 member, but just acting in that capacity right now, to
9 change what Chad had made, but we did discuss a
10 deferral so I would potentially be comfortable making
11 that motion, and I know I need to maybe do something in
12 that regard, but I just wanted to float that out there
13 before I do that.

14
15 MR. C. BROWER: You have that
16 privilege, you're standing in.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. BURNS: All right. I'm going to
21 make the motion to defer WP20-26, and reexamine at the
22 summer meeting in August, if that's appropriate.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: If you can get
25 a second I think we can get concurrence from the
26 Council on that.

27
28 MR. PELTOLA: Second, BIA.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, we have a
31 second now. Thank you guys. Yeah, I think it would
32 make sense, too, and like you said it would follow suit
33 with the other regulations we have going on and get a
34 better analysis on it and provide the justification for
35 the record like Ken's stating. And so maybe deferral
36 is the option at this time so we can get it right the
37 first time.

38
39 So I open the floor for discussion.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There's a
44 motion on the floor to defer to the summer meeting.

45
46 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Charlie.

49
50

1 MR. C. BROWER: So we bring this back,
2 and defer for the August meeting, and we get it right
3 in August, they'll be able to do their harvesting of
4 animals from all lands, hopefully not just BLM lands,
5 if something comes up -- or we come up with something;
6 is that right?

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that's
9 what we're talking about, is to defer it, Charlie, so
10 we can get a more comprehensive analysis done to
11 include additional lands that haven't been worked up
12 yet by the Staff, so that's what the deferral would do.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: To the Board, this is
15 Tom. Ken, could we clarify whether we can address the
16 deferral after we've gone through the regulatory cycle
17 or would that deferral truly have to be addressed in
18 2022?

19
20 MR. LORD: No, we can defer until
21 August that's perfectly acceptable.

22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you for
24 that clarification, Ken.

25
26 MR. LORD: You're welcome.

27
28 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
31 Greg.

32
33 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 So I would, you know, really encourage the Bristol Bay
35 Regional Advisory Committee to engage this working
36 group discussion along with OSM and InterAgency Staff
37 Committee, really try and come up with, you know, the
38 definition again as they did this last time, it was
39 very successful and also then addressed the --
40 certainly the Fish and Wildlife Service regulation
41 that's on the books and made them very compatible.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
46 that insight, Greg.

47
48 Did I hear somebody calling for the
49 question. Any further Board discussion.

50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

4

5 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, Mr. Chair, this
6 is the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council Chair and
7 I would just commit to being a part of that working
8 group and gladly seeing that it's done right the first
9 time.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
14 that Nanci.

15

16 MR. C. BROWER: Yes there was a
17 question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's
20 called. The motion on the floor is to defer this to
21 the summer work session.

22

23 MR. C. BROWER: And ask for unanimous
24 consent.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, hearing no
27 opposition to the motion, the motion carries
28 unanimously, and it'll be deferred to the summer work
29 session.

30

31 All right, that will conclude the
32 morning session. I appreciate the efforts this morning
33 and we'll try to get back on the call in one hour at
34 1:15, if that works for everybody. Again, please try to
35 maintain your line and we'll see you guys in an hour.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hopefully we've gotten
42 most people back, I know some people are trying to call
43 in. This is Tom. And I'll start just through the
44 Chair, a roll call, to make sure we have quorum of the
45 Board before we get going.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, thanks,
48 Tom, for that, go ahead and conduct a roll call and
49 make sure we're here and back and doing business and

50

1 we'll get started where we left off.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. So we have
Chairman Christianson.

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep.

10

11

MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service, is
Dave Schmid on.

12

13

14

15

16

17

MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I'm on, and hey, Tom,
and Mr. Chair, I'm going to have to step away at around
2:00 o'clock for an hour for a call back east, Wayne
Owen will be sitting in my place there for the Forest
Service during that hour or so.

18

19

20

21

MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. We'll make sure
that he's on the speaker's list, Dave, so that he's in
the cue.

22

23

MR. SCHMID: Thank you.

24

25

26

MR. DOOLITTLE: Is Charlie back on yet.

27

28

(No comments)

29

30

MR. DOOLITTLE: No Charlie yet. Casey,
you're on deck?

31

32

33

34

MR. BURNS: I'm here and Chad should be
back within a half hour or so but I'll be sitting in
until that time.

35

36

37

MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you, Sir.

38

39

Is Rhonda Pitka on.

40

41

MS. PITKA: Yes, I am, thank you.

42

43

MR. DOOLITTLE: All right, Rhonda,
great.

44

45

46

National Park Service, is Don Striker
on.

47

48

49

MR. REAM: Good afternoon, Tom. This
is Joshua Ream, I'm the Park Service representative to

50

1 the InterAgency Staff Committee, and Don has asked me
2 to sit in for up to an hour this afternoon.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, Josh, you're in
5 the cue.

6
7 MR. REAM: Thank you.

8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
10 Service, Greg Siekaniec, are you on board yet, Greg.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, Greg's still
15 trying to get in and Charlie.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom, this is
18 Tony here, that's why I figured 1:15 would be a good
19 time so a few minutes of trying to get everybody lined
20 up again, so we'll give them a few more minutes.

21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet, Mr. Chair.

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Are we having
27 success with our Regional Advisory Council Chairs, Tom?

28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, I'll start to go
30 through that here.

31
32 I'll first start with the State of
33 Alaska, Ben Mulligan, are you on?

34
35 MR. MULLIGAN: The State is here, Sir.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, good to hear
38 your voice, Ben.

39
40 And I'll go to the Regional Advisory
41 Councils. Is Don Hernandez in.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: I don't hear Don. Is
46 Greg Encelewski in?

47
48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Hey, Tom, this is Greg,
49 I'm now on.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Great, Greg, glad to
2 have you with us. And we're just waiting on Charlie.

3
4 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, sorry about that,
5 it took a little while to get through.

6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: No problem. Nanci
8 Lyon, are you on line?

9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, I'm available.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Nanci.

13
14 Alissa Rogers, are you on line?

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: I don't hear Alissa
19 yet.

20
21 Jack Reakoff, are you on line?

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff here.

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Jack, good to hear
26 you. Louis Green.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Don't hear Louis.

31
32 Mike Kramer, Northwest Arctic.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Don't hear Mike.

37
38 Sue Entsminger.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: I don't hear Sue.

43
44 Gordon Brower.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. So we're waiting
49 right now, Mr. Chair, for Charlie to get on line.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
2 Thanks for that roll call, Tom. We'll give him another
3 minute or two before we start.
4
5 (Pause)
6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Katya Wessels, are you
8 on line?
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Katya Wessels, are you
13 on line?
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Moving to Orville,
18 Orville, are you on line?
19
20 MR. LIND: Yes, Tom, can you hear me?
21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, loud and clear,
23 just checking for people that are involved in each of
24 the proposals to make sure they're here.
25
26 MR. LIND: Yeah, Charlie was trying
27 earlier.
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, I saw that.
30 Suzanne was on line.
31
32 MR. LIND: Okay.
33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: I know she's on deck.
35 I'm just trying to see if Katya's on line yet.
36
37 MR. LIND: Okay.
38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Orville.
40
41 (Pause)
42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, we can
44 start and welcome back from lunch everybody and we'll
45 get started with the Staff providing us with the
46 information for the next proposal.
47
48 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 This is Suzanne Worker. I'll be presenting the
50

1 overview of analysis WP20-30.

2

3 This proposal begins on Page 891 of
4 your meeting materials and it was submitted by the
5 Alaska Peninsula Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

6

7 WP20-30 requests that the Alaska hare
8 season be shortened from a year-round season to
9 November 1st to January 31st, and that the harvest
10 limit be reduced from no limit to one per day and four
11 annually.

12

13 Before we get too far into this there
14 are a couple of things I want to point out about
15 nomenclature. First, the Alaska hare is called the
16 tundra hare in Federal regulations, but Alaska hare is
17 probably the best term. And the second thing is that
18 the Alaska hare or the tundra hare are the same
19 species, but it's a different species than the snowshoe
20 hare despite being lumped together in Federal
21 regulations. So that situation can create a little bit
22 of confusion when we're talking about hares.

23

24 Alaska hares are among the most poorly
25 understood game species in Alaska with hunter
26 questionnaires being the only source of information
27 about these populations. Anecdotally, however,
28 abundance is well below historical levels throughout
29 the range of the species. Hares, both snowshoe hares
30 and Alaska hares are used by subsistence users, but,
31 again, we're unable to quantify that. Hunter surveys
32 suggest the hunting pressure on small game in Unit 9 is
33 relatively low compared to areas on the road system,
34 but that hares are targeted less frequently than other
35 small game species like ptarmigan and grouse so the
36 harvest is likely low.

37

38 If this proposal is adopted the Alaska
39 hare season would be reduced by 75 percent, though
40 hunters would still have the opportunity to harvest
41 hares during winter when they're out engaging in other
42 subsistence or recreational activities. The change in
43 daily and overall harvest limits may be effective in
44 reducing harvest, which could translate into an
45 improvement in the conservation status of these
46 populations. Any positive effects these changes have
47 on the Alaska hare population would benefit subsistence
48 users in the long term despite the immediate reduction
49 of subsistence opportunity.

50

1 The OSM conclusion is to support WP20-
2 30 with modification, to replace the term tundra here
3 with the term Alaska here throughout Federal
4 subsistence regulations. This would reflect
5 contemporary nomenclature and reduce regulatory
6 complexity between State and Federal regulations.
7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
11 questions from the Board for Staff.
12

13 (No comments)
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate the
16 presentation. We'll go to the summary of public
17 comments, Regional Council Coordinator.
18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 For the record this is Karen Deatherage with the Office
21 of Subsistence Management. There were no written
22 public comments for Wildlife Proposal 20-30.
23

24 Thank you.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. At
27 this time we will open the floor to the public
28 testimony. Operator, if there's anybody standing by to
29 present, please let them in.
30

31 OPERATOR: Thank you. Once, again, if
32 you have a question or a comment, please press star
33 then one.
34

35 One moment.
36

37 (Pause)
38

39 OPERATOR: At this time, Sir, I'm
40 showing no question or comment.
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 We'll move to Regional Advisory Council
44 recommendations, Chair or designee.
45

46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you. For
47 the record, this is Nanci Morris Lyon, Bristol Bay
48 Regional Advisory Council. We opposed WP20-30.
49
50

1 The Council opposed the proposal as
2 written, voting one to seven. The season end date
3 appears to be too restrictive and some Council members
4 stated that harvest and population numbers were
5 unknown. Additional information on the species is
6 needed prior to adopting the proposal to set season
7 dates. Traditionally the winter months are when hares
8 are harvested for winter protein.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Are
13 there additional Chairs.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
18 hearing none. We'll move on to the Tribal/Alaska
19 Native Corporation comments, Native Liaison.

20
21 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
22 you hear me?

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I hear you
25 well.

26
27 MR. LIND: Okay, thank you, Federal
28 Subsistence Board members, Mr. Chair, RAC Chairs. My
29 name is Orville Lind, Office of Subsistence Management.

30
31 At the time of the consultation session
32 there were no comments made on WP20-30.

33
34 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, State
40 Liaison.

41
42 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Chair. For
43 the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and
44 Game.

45
46 We support this proposal with suggested
47 modification. We recommend this Board consider adding
48 a salvage requirement for all Alaska hares, as was done
49 by the Alaska Board of Game. The salvage requirement
50

1 is currently listed as either the hide or meat of the
2 Alaska hare. And also it's not a requirement, it's
3 just something we're asking hunters to do so we can
4 learn more about Alaska hare population as our
5 biologists keep trying to do the same thing, is if
6 they're so inclined to do so, we please ask them to
7 call into our King Salmon office to report hare harvest
8 so we can learn more alongside the folks that are out
9 there hunting alongside with our biologists.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
14 questions for the State.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
19 hearing none. We'll move to InterAgency Staff
20 Committee comments, ISC Chair.

21

22 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 It's Suzanne Worker.

24

25 The InterAgency Staff Committee agrees
26 with the OSM modification to align Federal and State
27 nomenclature by changing tundra hare references in
28 Federal regulations to Alaska hare, which is used in
29 State regulation. This will reduce regulatory
30 complexity and improve the potential to conserve Alaska
31 hare populations which are reported to be well below
32 historic levels. Aligning Federal and State seasons
33 and harvest limits will further reduce regulatory
34 complexity and improve the ability for populations to
35 recover while still providing some opportunity for
36 harvest.

37

38 The Board could consider increasing the
39 season length to provide a subsistence priority,
40 however, usually a solitary animal during late winter,
41 aggregations of 20 or more have been observed with the
42 start of the mating season. More research is needed to
43 understand the status of the species but throughout the
44 hare's southern distribution on the Alaska Peninsula
45 high population numbers have not been reported since
46 winter of 1953/54. Potential limiting factors include
47 habitat loss, harvest and climate change. A
48 conservative approach aligning with State regulations
49 may therefore be warranted to ensure continued

50

1 subsistence use of this species into the future.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
6 Any questions for ISC.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any Board
11 discussion with Council Chairs and State Liaison.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
16 I'll open up the floor for Board action.

17

18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
19 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
22 the floor.

23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 I'll try and avoid any inferences to the waskly wabbits
26 here as I go through this.

27

28 I would move to adopt Proposal WP20-30
29 as modified by the Office of Subsistence Management.
30 The proposed language is shown on Page 897 and 98 of
31 the Board book. Following a second, I will provide
32 justification for why I intend to support my motion.

33

34 MR. REAM: Park Service seconds.

35

36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Current
37 information indicates that the Alaska hares in Unit 9
38 are at historically low densities compared to the past
39 and therefore it is appropriate to restrict harvest in
40 such a situation. Although there is not an abundance
41 of information on the current population, there is
42 enough data to indicate that has species are declined
43 enough to warrant precautionary conservation measures.
44 Reducing the season from July 10 to June 30th to
45 November 1 to January 31 reduces the season by 75
46 percent, yet, continues to offer subsistence users the
47 opportunity to harvest Alaska hare. Reducing harvest
48 to one per day, and four annually, will hopefully
49 reduce overall harvest and promote population recovery.

50

1 Collectively these changes offer a balance between
2 implementation of conservation measures and allowing
3 for the continuation of subsistence uses in the near
4 term. Positive effects of these changes on Alaska hare
5 populations will benefit subsistence users in the long
6 term.

7
8 Furthermore, the common species, the
9 snowshoe hare, would remain unlimited from July 1 to
10 June 30.

11
12 To increase our knowledge of the
13 species I would encourage the Office of Subsistence
14 Management to include language in the regulation book
15 commonly referred to as the Handy Dandy, to encourage
16 voluntary reporting of Alaska hare harvest observations
17 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game King Salmon
18 Office or report on the website, hare observation so
19 the Department can learn more about harvest and
20 locations of greatest abundance for ongoing research.

21
22 Updating the common name from tundra
23 hare to Alaska hare in Federal subsistence regulations
24 will reduce regulatory complexity. Alaska hare
25 terminology will be consistent for State and Federal
26 regulations which would reduce confusion for Federally-
27 qualified subsistence users who hunt under both State
28 and Federal regulations.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Greg. Any Board discussion, questions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
38 further discussion I'll call for the question.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

43
44 MR. SCHMID: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question's
47 been called. Tom, do you want to do roll call please.

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, Mr. Chair. This
50

1 is Proposal WP20-30 to support with modification to
2 replace the term tundra hare with the term Alaska hare
3 throughout Federal subsistence regulation to reflect
4 contemporary nomenclature and reduce regulatory
5 complexity between State and Federal regulations.
6

7 The modified regulation should read:
8 The definitions -- the following definitions apply to
9 all regulations contained in this part, hare or hares
10 collectively refers to all species of hares commonly
11 called rabbits in Alaska and includes snowshoe hare and
12 Alaska hare. And affected units are Units 9 and 17,
13 18, 21, 22, 23, 26. The regulation there would be no
14 limit on snowshoe hares and it would be one Alaska hare
15 per day, four in total.
16

17 National Park Service, Joshua Ream.
18

19 MR. REAM: The National Park Service
20 supports the motion with the modification for the
21 reasons articulated by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
22

23 Thank you.
24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Casey Burns, Bureau of
26 Land Management.
27

28 MR. BURNS: BLM will support with the
29 OSM modifications as described by Fish and Wildlife
30 Service.
31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir.
33

34 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.
35

36 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
37 opposes as recommended by the Bristol Bay Council out
38 of the concerns that the season and the end dates
39 appears to be too restrictive.
40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
42

43 Rhonda Pitka.
44

45 MS. PITKA: Oppose in deference to the
46 Regional Advisory Council recommendation that the
47 season is too restrictive.
48

49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Is Charlie Brower on
2 line yet.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: No Charlie.
7
8 Greg Siekaniec.
9
10 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
11 support as modified by the Office of Subsistence
12 Management and for reasons provided in the
13 justification.
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.
16
17 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.
18
19 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I'm going to support
20 WP20-30 with the OSM modification, again, based on the
21 justification provided by the Fish and Wildlife
22 Service.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
25 Christianson.
26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I will oppose
28 in deference to the RAC.
29
30 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.
31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: I will call once again
33 to see if Charlie Brower is on.
34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA has a
36 procedural question.
37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
39 Gene.
40
41 MR. PELTOLA: As the agency Board
42 members have the ISC member sitting in his or her
43 stead, and vote accordingly, does the same occur with
44 regard to a public member, and if so who is the ISC
45 member with regard to the public members?
46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gene, that's a
50

1 question that we don't have a clear answer to yet but I
2 would hope that Charlie could call in here as soon as
3 possible so that we could get what his vote is on this
4 reflected and, if not, maybe we could have somebody
5 give him a call. I would be willing to take a five
6 minute recess to do that.

7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: And let me ask for
9 clarification from Ken Lord on this as well, and,
10 Orville Lind is the ISC representative, you know, for
11 the Board members.

12
13 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, this is Ken. In
14 the far distance past when we only had a Chairman as
15 public member, the person in Orville's position would
16 sometimes sit in for the Chair but now we have three
17 public members, we don't have a process in place for
18 that to happen, at least not yet.

19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: So is the
21 recommendation that then if a Board member is absent
22 that they don't have that recommendation even though
23 there is a quorum?

24
25 MR. LORD: Legally a quorum is all we
26 need.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir.

29
30 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Ken.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: So at this point, Ken,
33 do we commence with the vote as it stands with the
34 quorum as.....

35
36 OPERATOR: Excuse me, Mr. Brower has
37 joined you.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ah, great.

40
41 MR. C. BROWER: Good afternoon, I
42 finally got through.

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good Charlie, I'm glad
45 you're with us. We're on a vote right now with -- on
46 Alaska here and I have these votes.

47
48 The Park Service is yes.

49
50

1 BLM is yes.
2
3 Fish and Wildlife Service is yes.
4
5 Forest Service is yes.
6
7 Bureau of Indian Affairs is no.
8
9 Public Member Pitka is no.
10
11 Chairman Christianson is no.
12
13 MR. C. BROWER: I would go along with
14 no.
15
16 MR. DOOLITTLE: So you're not
17 supporting the modification as presented by Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, correct?
19
20 MR. C. BROWER: Yes.
21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
23 It's a four/four tie, that means the motion fails.
24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
26 thank you guys for that. We'll move on to the next
27 proposal there, Tom.
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. The next proposal
30 is actually a wildlife closure review, 20-04/06.
31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
33 thank you for that presentation. We'll call on the
34 Staff to present the analysis to us, please.
35
36 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 This is Suzanne Worker again. Wildlife Closure Review
38 20-04/06 begins on Page 904 of your analysis -- I'm
39 sorry, Page 904 of your meeting materials.
40
41 This review deals with a Federal public
42 lands closure for caribou in three hunt areas. The
43 portion of Unit 9C that drains into the Naknek River
44 from the north which includes Graveyard Creek and
45 Coffee Creek, Unit 9 remainder, and Unit 9E -- sorry,
46 Unit 9C remainder, and Unit 9E. So this affects both
47 the Mulchatna and the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herds.
48
49 These closures have been in place at
50

1 least in some form since 1999 and in their current form
2 since 2016 when an .804 analysis was conducted. In
3 2018 Unit 9C remainder was divided at the Naknek River
4 and a new hunt area was established. So if you have
5 your books there's a map of this on Page 910, and those
6 two northern hunt areas used to be a single hunt area.
7 The Board made this boundary change to bring
8 regulations into align with the current distributions
9 of the Mulchatna and the Northern Alaska Peninsula
10 Herds. So in effect the regulatory emphasis in the new
11 hunt area north of the Naknek River was shifted to the
12 Mulchatna Herd consistent with the population that
13 actually exists in that area. However, a Federal
14 public lands closure was not addressed at that time so
15 we have a closure that, in, at least, some areas,
16 doesn't reflect the conservation needs of the herd that
17 it was intended for.

18
19 As far as the Northern Alaska Peninsula
20 Herd goes it pretty much stays south of the Naknek
21 River and it remains a small population. It has shown
22 a growth trend over the past several years and it was
23 estimated to be about 3,600 caribou in 2016 but that's
24 still far below the population objective of 12,000 to
25 15,000 caribou. Harvest has been allowed under both
26 State and Federal regulations since 2016 and those
27 hunts are managed by quota. And up to this point all
28 reported harvest has been by Federally-qualified
29 subsistence users. So it's good news that the
30 population seems to be doing better in recent years and
31 that it can finally support a harvest for local users
32 again but there's no indication that the Federal public
33 lands closure should be rescinded at this time.

34
35 It does seem like the current
36 management approach, which includes the State's Tier II
37 permit and the Federal public lands closure appears to
38 be working okay.

39
40 So the OSM recommendation is that no
41 changes be made to the Federal public lands closure
42 south of the Naknek River, so this is Unit 9C remainder
43 and Unit 9E. The area north of the Naknek is currently
44 occupied by the Mulchatna Herd and until recently this
45 population seemed to be doing okay, not great, but
46 okay. It was bouncing around near the lower end of the
47 population objective, which was 30,000 to 80,000
48 animals. But as you know the 2019 population estimate
49 came in quite low at about 13,500 caribou. So that's
50

1 less than half of the low end of the population
2 objectives. There may be some motivation to retain the
3 closure north of the Naknek River on account of that
4 new information but I do want to note that since 2009,
5 which is the first year that the non-resident season
6 was closed, only about 50 caribou have been reported
7 harvested by non-Federally-qualified users each year
8 and only about six percent of those, or about three
9 caribou per year were harvested in Unit 9C. So harvest
10 by non-locals in Unit 9C is inconsequential really when
11 you consider the total harvest of the Mulchatna Herd.
12

13 I also want to point out that this is
14 the only Federal public lands closure within the range
15 of the Mulchatna Herd and like I mentioned earlier,
16 it's a vestige of the pre-2018 hunt area that treated
17 the area north of the Naknek River as part of the
18 Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd range.
19

20 So for those reasons the OSM recommends
21 that the closure in the hunt area north of the Naknek
22 be rescinded and that any Federal public land closures
23 for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd be taken up on their own
24 merit.
25

26 So to summarize, the closure that -- we
27 recommend that the closure in Units 9C remainder and 9E
28 be retained. But that the closure in the portion of 9C
29 that drains into the Naknek from the north be
30 rescinded.
31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
35 the presentation. Any questions for Staff.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
40 hearing none, appreciate the presentation. Summary of
41 public comment, Regional Council Coordinator.
42

43 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
44 members of the Board. For the record this is Katya
45 Wessels with OSM. And we did not receive any written
46 public comments for Wildlife Closure WCR20-04/06.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Katya, and welcome back on. We'll open the floor to
3 the public, anyone on line, Operator, who would wish to
4 speak to this.

5
6 OPERATOR: Once again, if you have a
7 comment or would like to speak press star then one.

8
9 One moment.

10
11 (Pause)

12
13 OPERATOR: At this time, Sir, I'm
14 showing no callers have joined in.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
17 Regional Advisory Council recommendation, Chair.

18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman and Board members. Nanci Morris Lyon, Bristol
21 Bay Regional Advisory Council.

22
23 Bristol Bay Regional Subsistence
24 Advisory Council supported modification of the closure
25 for WCR20-04/06. The Council supported the OSM
26 conclusion to rescind the Federal public lands closure
27 in the portion of Unit 9C draining into the Naknek
28 River from the north in Graveyard Creek and Coffee
29 Creek, and to retain the Federal public lands closures
30 in Unit 9C remainder and Unit 9E. The Council noted
31 that residents of the area desire additional
32 opportunities to harvest caribou but don't believe that
33 the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd is ready for
34 additional harvest pressure. The Council agreed with
35 the OSM conclusion that there's no reason to retain the
36 Federal public lands closure north of the Naknek River,
37 the area occupied by the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

38
39 And I will note that we feel pretty
40 strongly about keeping the closure to the south of the
41 river in place, mostly because we have suffered the
42 most for many, many years now, I believe it's over 20
43 years waiting for this herd to come back after its last
44 fall. So we're really quite protective of the herd and
45 with good justification.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
50

1 that, appreciate it. Any questions from the Board for
2 the Chair.

3

4

(No comments)

5

6

7

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
we'll move on to tribal, Alaska Native Corporation
comments, Native Liaison, Orville Lind.

8

9

10

11

12

MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
members, RAC Chairs, Orville Lind, Native Liaison for
the Office of Subsistence Management.

13

14

15

16

We had two sessions of consultation,
one on September 23rd and one on September 30th and
there were no comments made to WCR20-04/06.

17

18

19

That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

20

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Orville. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments,
State Liaison.

24

25

26

27

MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark
Burch with the Department of Fish and Game. The State
has no comments on this closure.

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Mark. InterAgency Staff Committee comments, ISC Chair.

31

32

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50

MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
It's Suzanne Worker. The InterAgency Staff Committee
agrees with the OSM conclusion and the Bristol Bay
Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommendation to
retain the Federal public lands closure in Unit 9C
remainder and 9E. The ISC also agrees with rescinding
the Federal public lands closure in the portion of Unit
9C draining into the Naknek River from the north and
Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek on the basis that the
original justification for the closure was based on the
conservation concerns for the Northern Alaska Peninsula
Herd, which no longer ranges within this area. Still,
the Board may consider retaining a closure in this area
to support the recovery of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
for which there are current conservation concerns. The
area compromises only a small portion of the Mulchatna
range, and, therefore, a closure may have only limited
benefits to the conservation of the Mulchatna Caribou
Herd.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
4 questions for the ISC Staff.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Open it up for
9 Board discussion with Council Chair and State Liaison.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
14 Hearing none, Federal Subsistence Board action, the
15 floor is open.

16

17 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is Joshua
18 Ream with the National Park Service.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
21 floor, Josh.

22

23 MR. REAM: I move to modify the closure
24 for Wildlife Closure Review WCR20-04/06 to rescind only
25 that portion of the closure in the portion of 9C
26 draining into the Naknek River from the north and
27 Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek and to retain the
28 closure within Units 9C remainder and 9E. This mirrors
29 the OSM modification that can be found on Page 904 of
30 the meeting book.

31

32 If given a second, I will explain my
33 intention to support this motion.

34

35 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

36

37 MR. REAM: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You've got the
40 floor, Josh.

41

42 MR. REAM: I concur with the Bristol
43 Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, OSM and the
44 InterAgency Staff Committee that the reason for the
45 closure conservation concerns for the Northern Alaska
46 Peninsula Caribou Herd is no longer applicable because
47 the herd no longer ranges within this area. I do,
48 however, recognize the conservation concerns for the
49 Mulchatna Caribou Herd which has limited range within

50

1 this area and I anticipate that these concerns are
2 being addressed through other actions that encompass
3 the broader range of that herd.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
8 Josh. Any questions, any further Board discussion or
9 deliberation.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A call for the
14 question.

15

16 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

17

18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

19

20 MR. C. BROWER: And ask for unanimous
21 consent.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hey, Tom, will
24 you do roll call on this one and if we do get down
25 there Charlie on the next one we can entertain that
26 motion, so Tom will you do roll call on this one.

27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, thank you very
29 much, Mr. Chair. This is Wildlife Closure Review 20-
30 04/06 closures to caribou hunting in Unit 9C draining
31 into the Naknek River from north and Graveyard Creek
32 and Coffee Creek, Unit 9C remainder and Unit 9E the
33 closure in the Unit 9C areas are closed to caribou
34 hunting except by residents of Unit 9C and Egegik, and
35 the closure in Unit 9E is closed to caribou hunting
36 except by residents of Unit 9E, Nelson Lagoon and Sand
37 Point. The particular motion was to support the OSM
38 conclusion, modified closure to rescind the closure in
39 the portion of Unit 9C draining into the Naknek River
40 from north of Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek and to
41 maintain the closures within Units 9C and remainder of
42 9E.

43

44 Start off with on the modified OSM
45 proposal with Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

46

47 MR. PELTOLA: The Bureau of Indian
48 Affairs supports modifying the existing closure as
49 recommended by the Bristol Bay RAC.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
2
3 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.
4
5 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, the Forest Service
6 supports the modified -- I'm sorry -- supports to
7 modify to eliminate the closure for WCR20-04/06 in
8 deference to the Advisory Council.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.
11
12 Rhonda Pitka.
13
14 MS. PITKA: I support to modify the
15 closure in deference to the Regional Advisory Council
16 as stated on Page 919 of the meeting book.
17
18 Thank you.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
21
22 Charlie Brower.
23
24 MR. C. BROWER: I support to maintain
25 modified closure WCR20-04/06 as stated.
26
27 Thank you.
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Joshua Ream.
30
31 MR. REAM: The National Park Service
32 supports the modified closure in deference to the RAC
33 and for the reasons articulated earlier.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
38 Management Chad Padgett, or Casey Burns.
39
40 MR. PADGETT: I'm back on Tom, this is
41 Chad, and I support in deference to the RAC.
42
43 Thank you.
44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
46
47 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
48 Siekaniec.
49
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
2 support modified closure proposal in deference to the
3 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and as justified
4 by the National Park Service.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

9
10 And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Support in
13 deference to the RAC.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 The motion passes unanimously.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: That moves us on, Mr.
21 Chair, to Wildlife Closure Review 20-38.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

24
25 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 This is Suzanne Worker and I'll be presenting the
27 analysis for WCR20-38, which begins on Page 920 of your
28 meeting material. This one is for moose in Unit 18,
29 the Kuskokwim hunt area, and this closure has been in
30 place in some form since 1991.

31
32 The moose population was quite small
33 during the 1990s, which led to a harvest moratorium
34 beginning in 2004. That moratorium was effective in
35 allowing the establishment of a harvestable population
36 and it appears that the population along the Kuskokwim
37 main stem and its tributaries continued to grow. The
38 most recent population survey, which included the main
39 stem river corridor between Kalskag and Kwethluk
40 occurred in 2015. At that time the population was
41 estimated to be nearly 1,400 moose so the population is
42 growing but it remains below the State's population
43 objective of 2,000 moose. Composition estimates along
44 the main stem were last obtained in 2016 and at that
45 time there were an estimated 70 bulls per 100 cows,
46 which is well above the minimum objective of 30 bulls
47 per 100 cows and the calf/cow ratios in 2016 were 56
48 calves per 100 cows.

49
50

1 Harvest has been allowed in the
2 Kuskokwim hunt area since 2009 by State registration
3 permit. Harvest has increased noticeably since then
4 particularly within the last several years. In 2018
5 212 moose were reported harvested, nearly all of which
6 were taken by locals. Demand for moose is much greater
7 than that however and this becomes obvious when you
8 consider that 1,300 hunters, on average, obtained moose
9 permits each year with combined State and Federal quota
10 of less than 300 bulls. For the past several years the
11 State managed quota, which applies primarily to lands
12 along the main stem of the Kuskokwim has been met in a
13 week or less. A Federal quota, which appears primarily
14 to lands along the tributaries has remained unmet in
15 recent years but this is likely due to the challenges
16 of hunting in the tributaries rather than to lack of
17 demand for moose.

18
19 The OSM conclusion is to retain the
20 Federal public lands closure to maintain the status quo
21 because demand still far outweighs the number of moose
22 available for harvest. Retaining the closure ensures
23 that the 15 communities that have demonstrated the most
24 dependence on this resource continue to have a
25 subsistence priority on Federal public lands.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
30 We'll move to -- without any questions from the Board,
31 we'll move to summary of public comment, Regional
32 Council Coordinator.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
35 members of the Board. For the record, Katya Wessels.
36 We received no written public comments on Wildlife
37 Closure Review WCR20-38.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
42 We'll open the floor to public testimony, anyone on
43 line.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
48 we'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
49 recommendation, Chair or designee.

50

1 MS. ROGERS: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
2 Alissa Rogers with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, you have
6 the floor.

7
8 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
9 Board members. My name is Alissa Nadine Rogers, Madame
10 Chair for the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory
11 Council. And our comment is that we're just going to
12 maintain status quo.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 We'll call next, any questions for the Chair.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
20 we'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation
21 comments, Native Liaison, Orville Lind.

22
23 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Board
24 members, RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for
25 the Office of Subsistence Management.

26
27 During the consultation session we did
28 not have any comments.

29
30 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, State
34 Liaison.

35
36 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Okay. The Department supports this proposal -- sorry,
38 this is WCR20-38 -- sorry, the Department has no
39 comment on this proposal -- my apologies, Sir.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you.
42 We'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee comments,
43 ISC Chair.

44
45 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
46 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
47 comment for WCR20-38.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
50

1 Board discussion with Council Chair and State Liaison.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
6 Federal Board action.

7

8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
9 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
12 floor, Greg.

13

14 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, Mr. Chair. I move
15 to maintain the status quo for Wildlife Closure Review
16 20-38. The wildlife closure language is shown on Page
17 922 of the Board book. Following a second I will
18 provide justification for why I intend to support this
19 motion.

20

21 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

22

23 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Although it
24 is clear the moose population is increasing, it is
25 uncertain if the population has met the State
26 population objective of 2,000 and its winter conditions
27 in 2020 have negatively affected the overall
28 population. In addition, it is also evident that
29 demand for moose by Federally-qualified users is
30 greater than the harvestable surplus. Until a survey
31 can be completed to determine the status of the
32 population, I support continuing this closure in
33 support of the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council
34 request and to ensure a priority for Federally-
35 qualified subsistence users who are most dependent on
36 this resource.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
41 further Board discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
48 called. Roll call, Tom. And, Charlie, I know you
49 recommended we potentially do it different, but we're
50

1 trying to maintain the record on the teleconference
2 here and so I think I'm going to continue to do it with
3 a roll call through Tom, just so that we can articulate
4 our positions and create a better record here on the
5 teleconference. So we'll call on Tom for roll call.

6
7 MR. C. BROWER: No problem.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So thank you,
10 Charlie.

11
12 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, it could
15 have sped it up I would agree with you there,
16 exponentially but I think we need to continue to keep
17 the record, so, Tom, I'll call on you to do roll call.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 And thank you to Charlie for raising a way to make
21 things more expedient.

22
23 This is Closure Review WCR20-38 closure
24 to moose hunting in a portion of Unit 18 except by the
25 residents of Tuntutuliak, Eek, Napaskiak, Napakiak,
26 Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmautlauk, Oscarville, Bethel,
27 Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag and
28 Kalskag. This is to maintain the status quo on that
29 particular closure.

30
31 We'll start with Gene Peltola, BIA.

32
33 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
34 votes to support maintaining the status quo as
35 recommended by the YKDelta RAC.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

38
39 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,
44 David Schmid or Wayne Owen.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, could we see
49 if Wayne Owen or David Schmid is on line.

50

1 OPERATOR: I'm showing David is on
2 line, however -- and his line is open, we're just
3 unable to hear him. Can you please check your mute
4 button, Sir.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 OPERATOR: I'm going to go ahead and
9 place Mr. Owen in.....
10
11 MR. OWEN: Can you hear me now?
12
13 OPERATOR: Mr. Owen, your line is open.
14
15 MR. OWEN: Yep, thank you. Tom, sorry,
16 a little phone trouble, this is Wayne Owen, Forest
17 Service. The Forest Service supports.
18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Wayne.
20
21 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
22 Padgett.
23
24 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Tom. I vote to
25 support in deference to the RAC. Thank you.
26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
28
29 Rhonda Pitka.
30
31 MS. PITKA: Hi. I vote to support
32 maintaining the closure in deference to the Regional
33 Advisory Council. Thank you.
34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
36
37 Charlie Brower.
38
39 MR. C. BROWER: I support to maintain
40 status quo for WCR20-38.
41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
43
44 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
45 Siekaniec.
46
47 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
48 support to maintain the closure in deference to the
49 Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council and for the
50

1 justification provided.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

6

7

National Park Service, Joshua Ream.

8

9

MR. REAM: The National Park Service
10 supports maintaining the status quo in deference to the
11 YKDelta RAC. Thank you.

12

13

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Josh.

14

15

And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
18 deference to the RAC.

19

20

21

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chairman
21 Christianson. The motion passes unanimously.

22

23

That moves us on to, Mr. Chair,
24 Wildlife Closure Review 20-40.

25

26

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

27

28

29

MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 This is Suzanne Worker, and I'll be presenting this
30 analysis which begins on Page 932 of your meeting
31 material.

32

33

Moose in the portion of Unit 18, south
34 of and including the Kanektok River drainage to the
35 Goodnews River drainage so this includes both the
36 Kanektok and the Arolik River drainages. This closure
37 has been in place since 1991 when all Federal public
38 lands throughout Unit 18 were closed. There hadn't
39 been a Federal season in this hunt area until 2019 and
40 that season was a result of Wildlife Special Action
41 WSA19-01.

42

43

Prior to the early 2000s moose were not
44 commonly observed in southern Unit 18 but a population
45 eventually became established there and it started to
46 grow in about 2012. Between 2013 and 2018 the
47 population grew at an estimated 42 percent annually and
48 by 2018 173 moose were observed. Harvest within the
49 Kanektok, Arolik hunt area was allowed under State

50

1 regulation by harvest ticket until 2019 when a
2 registration permit became a requirement. Reported
3 harvest is low averaging only four moose per year and
4 Federally-qualified subsistence users are responsible
5 for most of that reported harvest.
6

7 You may have noticed that the OSM
8 preliminary conclusion was to modify or eliminate the
9 closure, and that's because opening Federal public
10 lands isn't likely to pose a conservation concern,
11 however, we offered an addendum and changed our
12 conclusion to take no action based on action taken on
13 WP20-32/33. That proposal is on the consensus agenda
14 and assuming you adopt it as recommended by the
15 Regional Advisory Council, the State and the
16 InterAgency Staff Committee, the Federal public lands
17 closure will be rescinded. So, again, that's Proposal
18 WP20-32/33, and our recommendation is to take no action
19 on this closure review.
20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
24 questions.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll go to
29 summary of public comments, Regional Council
30 Coordinator.
31

32 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
33 members of the Board. For the record Katya Wessels,
34 OSM. And we did not receive any written public
35 comments on WCR20-40.
36

37 Thank you.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
40 We'll open the floor to the public, anyone on line.
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing.....
45

46 OPERATOR: I'm not showing anyone at
47 this time, Sir.
48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
50

1 We'll move to the Regional Advisory Council
2 recommendation, Chair or designee.

3

4 MS. ROGERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 This is Alissa Rogers with YKDelta RAC.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
8 the floor.

9

10 MS. ROGERS: Thank you. Through the
11 Chair and the Board. My name is Alissa Nadine Rogers,
12 I'm with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence
13 Regional Advisory Council. We would like to support
14 this proposal with modification for closure of WCR20-40
15 to open Unit 18 south of the Kanektok River to only
16 Federally-qualified subsistence users.

17

18 There is evidence and known data that
19 the moose population has been growing, which can
20 support a small subsistence hunt. The subsistence
21 communities in the hunt area should have the first
22 priority to harvest and have it only open to the
23 Federally-qualified users at this time. We had also
24 suggested that there was further consultation with the
25 tribes of Eek, Quinhagak and Goodnews Bay.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
30 questions for the Council Chair.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tribal/Alaska
35 Native Corporation comments, Native Liaison.

36

37 MR. LIND: Can you hear me now?

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hear you now.

40

41 MR. LIND: Okay, thank you. Mr.
42 Chair, Board members, RAC Chairs. During the
43 consultation we did not hear any comments.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
48 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, State
49 Liaison.

50

1 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Sir. For the
2 record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and
3 Game. And actually we have no comment on this closure.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
8 We'll move on to the InterAgency Staff Committee
9 comments, ISC Chair.
10

11 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
12 InterAgency Staff Committee offered the standard
13 comment for WCR20-40.
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. That
16 opens it up for Board discussion with Council Chair and
17 State Liaison.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
22 we'll open the floor for Federal Board action on this.
23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
25 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.
26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
28 have the floor.
29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. I move to
31 take no action on Wildlife Closure Review 20-40. The
32 wildlife closure language is shown on Page 993 of the
33 Board book. Following a second I will provide
34 justification for why I intend to support this motion.
35

36 MR. C. BROWER: Second.
37

38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Action
39 taken on Wildlife Proposal WP20-32/33, which is on the
40 consensus agenda, addresses the Federal public lands
41 closure in the Kanektok, Arolik hunt area and will
42 satisfy the requirements of this closure review. That
43 analysis includes a comprehensive overview of all
44 associated regulatory requests and action including
45 feedback from the public, tribes and the Council.
46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
50

1 further discussion or deliberation by the Board.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A call for the
6 question.

7

8 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call, Tom.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 This is Closure Review WCR20-40 review closure to moose
14 hunting in Unit 18 south and including the Kanektok
15 River drainages to the Goodnews River drainage to all
16 users. The motion was to take no action.

17

18 Start with Bureau of Land Management,
19 Chad Padgett.

20

21 MR. PADGETT: I support the motion to
22 take no action.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

25

26 National Park Service, Joshua Ream.

27

28 MR. REAM: The National Park Service
29 also supports taking no action on this. Thank you.

30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.

32

33 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid, or
34 Wayne Owen.

35

36 MR. OWEN: The U.S. Forest Service
37 supports the motion to take no action on WCR20-40.
38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Wayne.

41

42 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

43

44 MR. PELTOLA: The Bureau of Indian
45 Affairs also supports taking no action on WCR20-40.

46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

48

49 Rhonda Pitka.

50

1 MS. PITKA: I support taking no action
2 on WCR20-40 because it will be addressed in a different
3 proposal. Thank you.

4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
6
7 Charlie Brower.

8
9 MR. C. BROWER: I support to take no
10 action on WCR20-40.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
13
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
15 Siekaniec.

16
17 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
18 support to take no action in deference to the Yukon
19 Delta Regional Advisory Council, which will be
20 addressed through Wildlife Proposal WP20-32/33, which
21 is on the consensus agenda.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you much, Greg.
26
27 And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support no
30 action.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion to take no
33 action passes unanimously.

34
35 That will move us, Mr. Chair, to the
36 Western Interior proposals, starting with Wildlife
37 Proposal 20-36/37.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And we'll call
40 on the Staff to present that, thank you.

41
42 MS. MAAS: All right, thank you, Mr.
43 Chair, members of the Board. My name is Lisa Maas and
44 I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
45 Management. I'll be presenting a summary of the
46 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP20-36/37 which begins
47 on Page 940 of your meeting book.

48
49 Wildlife Proposal WP20-36 was submitted

50

1 by the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
2 and requests establishing a 15 day March new season in
3 a portion of Unit 21D resulting in a creation of a new
4 hunt area, eliminating the March to be announced new
5 season in Unit 21D remainder, requiring a State
6 registration permit in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area,
7 or Koyukuk CUA, and eliminating the March and April to
8 be announced new seasons in the Koyukuk CUA.
9

10 Wildlife Proposal WP20-37 was submitted
11 by the Western Interior Council and requests
12 establishing a 15 day to be announced new season
13 between December 1st and 31st and a 15 day may be
14 announced season between March 1st and 31st in a
15 portion of Unit 21D resulting in the creation of a new
16 hunt area. The March season would be announced if the
17 harvest quota is not met during the December hunt.
18

19 The Refuge's overall intent is to align
20 State and Federal regulations in Unit 21D due to the
21 complexity of land ownership in this subunit, which
22 makes it very difficult for users to know if they're on
23 Federal or non-Federal land.
24

25 The Western Interior Council proposes
26 establishing a December season in a portion of Unit 21D
27 as harvesting a moose then would provide valuable meat
28 over the winter. If quotas are not met in December the
29 Council proposes opening another season in March.
30

31 Federal new seasons in Unit 21D have
32 changed numerous times since 1990 in response to moose
33 abundance and to changes in State regulations. Given
34 the checkerboard pattern of land ownership in this
35 subunit alignment with State regulations is usually the
36 impetus for modifying Federal regulations. In 2019 the
37 Alaska Board of Game established a 15 day winter moose
38 season in Unit 21D, that portion south of the south
39 bank of the Yukon River down stream of the up river
40 entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek. This
41 hunt area is depicted in Map 1 on Page 943 of your
42 meeting book and I will hereafter refer to this hunt
43 area as Unit 21D southwest.
44

45 The Western Interior Council submitted
46 Proposal 59 to the State Board of Game which is
47 identical to Proposal WP20-37, the Alaska Board of Game
48 considered Proposal 59 at their March 2020 meeting and
49 the proposal failed.
50

1 Moose in Unit 21D are surveyed in three
2 distinct areas as shown in Map 1 on Page 943. The
3 middle Koyukuk survey area is located within Koyukuk
4 CUA hunt area. Surveys indicate the moose population
5 in this area is stable or declining and low bull/cow
6 ratios do not support increased harvest opportunity.
7 The lower Koyukuk Yukon survey area straddles all three
8 hunt areas, while high calf/cow ratios indicate this
9 population is growing, very low bull/cow ratios
10 recommend conservative bull harvest. Indeed 2017
11 bull/cow ratios in a portion of this survey area were
12 only 10 bulls per 100 cows. The Kaiyuh Slough survey
13 area is located within the State's new hunt area of
14 Unit 21D southwest. High bull/cow and calf/cow ratios
15 in recent years coupled with substantial increases in
16 densities support additional harvest in this area.
17 Indeed this recent and substantial increase in
18 population is what prompted the State to establish the
19 March to be announced season in 2019 to slow but not
20 stop population growth. ADF&G announces a quota for
21 this hunt each year, which is 0.9 percent of the
22 estimated number of cows. Between 1990 and 2018
23 reported moose harvest in Unit 21D averaged 300 moose
24 per year although ADF&G estimates unreported harvest as
25 an additional 125 moose per year. Federally-qualified
26 subsistence users account for about half of the
27 reported moose harvest in Unit 21D on average.

28
29 One alternative considered was
30 establishing a cow only December hunt. This would
31 accommodate the Council's desire for harvest
32 opportunity in December, as well as addressing
33 conservation concerns associated with harvesting
34 additional bulls in December.

35
36 Adopting Proposal WP20-36 would align
37 Federal and State regulations, eliminating Federal only
38 seasons where moose populations do not support
39 additional harvest and establishing a March to be
40 announced season in Unit 21D southwest where moose
41 populations are growing.

42
43 The intent of the March season is to
44 provide additional harvest opportunity and to slow but
45 not stop the growth of the Kaiyuh Flats moose
46 population.

47
48 Adopting Proposal WP20-37 establishes a
49 15 day season in December in Unit 21D southwest,

50

1 however, conservation concerns exist for a December
2 hunt due to very low bull/cow ratios in portions of the
3 hunt area. As bulls still have antlers in December,
4 people may target bulls when the intent of the winter
5 season is to harvest cows as the moose population is
6 growing but cannot support additional bull harvest in
7 some areas. Adoption of Proposal WP20-37 would also
8 misalign State and Federal regulations since the Board
9 of Game failed Proposal 59. Misalignment of State and
10 Federal regulations in Unit 21D has generally been
11 avoided due to the complex checkerboard of Federal and
12 non-Federal lands which causes user confusion and law
13 enforcement concerns.

14
15 The OSM conclusion is to support WP20-
16 36 with modification to clarify regulatory language and
17 to delegate authority to the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko
18 Refuge Manager to announce season dates, harvest quotas
19 and sex restrictions via delegation of authority only
20 and take no action on WP20-37.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
25 questions from the Board for Staff.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
30 that presentation. We'll move on to summary of public
31 comment, Regional Council Coordinator, Katya.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
34 members of the Board. We received no written public
35 comments on WP20-36/37.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
40 We'll move on to open the floor to public testimony,
41 anyone on the line.

42
43 OPERATOR: I'm showing that we have one
44 question -- or one comment from Arnold Demenski [sic],
45 your line is now open.

46
47 MR. DEMOSKI: I gave my testimony this
48 morning, I don't know if you need me to repeat it or
49 just simply support/oppose.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
2 floor, Arnold, so if you just wanted to -- you have the
3 time to speak to it.

4
5 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay. Thank you for the
6 opportunity to speak again. I just wanted to say I do
7 support WP20-36, having that opportunity at that time
8 is ideal for people in Nulato and Kaltag considering we
9 do have the ceremonial Stick Dance Celebration right
10 after that hunt. So having our population in the
11 village is doubled, sometimes tripled in size, so it's
12 really ideal for us to have that. I mean we get the
13 ceremonial moose but that's not quite enough to feed
14 everybody because our population is so big at those
15 times. So having that hunt then in March, that's
16 really good for us and I support that.

17
18 For WP20-37, I oppose -- I know -- I
19 talked to some of the proponents that submitted that
20 proposal and I know what he's trying to do but at this
21 time I'm going to have to oppose that. If we do meet
22 our harvest quota in December we wouldn't have that
23 opportunity in March, so I oppose WP20-37. It's good
24 to see the numbers rising every year, though, in our
25 area, hopefully it continues to do that.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
28 Board. I appreciate the time.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
31 taking the time to call in Arnold. Any questions for
32 Arnold.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
37 hearing none, appreciate it, I hope you have a good
38 day.

39
40 Regional Advisory Council
41 recommendations, Chair or designee.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: This is Jack Reakoff, can
44 you hear me?

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I could hear
47 you, Jack, you have the floor.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. The Council

50

1 unanimously supported WP20-37 with modification to
2 define the December hunt area for Unit 21 is -- the
3 area southeast of Kala Slough and Ninemile Camp, but
4 Anvik Creek drainage in the Kaiyuh Mouth and south to
5 the Unit 21D boundary. The Council discussed the low
6 bull/cow ratio near Galena of 10 bulls per 100 cows,
7 and wanted to ensure that that area that's included in
8 the spring hunt is not included in the December hunt.
9 The modified hunt area would allow for harvest of a
10 high density moose area with good bull/cow ratios while
11 applying conservation measures where needed. The
12 Council also requested that a modification to WP20-37
13 be submitted to the Alaska Board of Game to modify the
14 Council's Board of Game Proposal 59. This should be
15 done to align the Federal and State regulations so the
16 modification cited above and adopted by the Council at
17 the October 8 and 9 2019 meeting we had in Galena -- or
18 correction, in McGrath.

19
20 The Council believes aligning both
21 State and Federal regulations will further conserve the
22 moose population in low density areas of 21D while
23 providing subsistence opportunities in areas of high
24 density moose population. The Council intend also to
25 provide moose harvest opportunity early in the winter
26 within the described new hunt area of 21D both under
27 State and Federal regulations. That was our intention.

28
29 It is the desire of the Council to add
30 a disparate Federal hunt -- it's not the Council's
31 intention to have a disparate Federal hunt, therefore,
32 if the Board of Game fails to adopt Proposal 59 as
33 amended, then the Council will withdraw the December
34 hunt portion of WP20-37 from Board consideration.

35
36 The Council opposed -- at the time,
37 this is in October when we had our meeting, the WP20-36
38 because of its action taken on WP20-37, however, the
39 Chair stated that he does not support eliminating the
40 Federal only hunt in 21 as opposed in 20-36 noting that
41 while moose populations may not support an additional
42 season right now, those seasons should be kept in
43 regulation to provide subsistence harvest opportunity
44 when the moose population increases.

45
46 At our winter, 2020 meeting, the
47 Council clarified that they do not support requiring
48 the State registration permit in the Koyukuk Controlled
49 Use Area as proposed in 20-36, the Council they do --

50

1 we do support that permit. The Council also supported
2 modifying language in the December hunt as that portion
3 of Unit 21D southeast of Yukon River and south of and
4 including the Kaiyuh Slough and Gordon Creek drainages.
5 The regulation is stated and in the map that Lisa
6 referred to. The reason we wanted a December portion
7 -- December 1 to December 31 was that the -- one of our
8 members felt that there was -- if a somebody -- a
9 family didn't get a moose in the fall hunt, that at the
10 soonest opportunity to cross the Yukon River should be
11 afforded so that people from Koyukuk and Nulato,
12 primarily, and Kaltag, could enter into the Kaiyuh
13 Flats which is across the river from those communities.
14 The moose population has increased from nearly 2,000
15 moose to 4,000 moose and the bull/cow ratio in our
16 described area is very high for bulls. We were
17 eliminating the area near Galena, the northeast portion
18 of that winter hunt, the State has, because of the low
19 bull/cow ratio. We were addressing those issues.
20

21 But the Board of Game did not adopt.
22 The Board listened to testimony that the river would be
23 dangerous from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
24 I think our residents in our communities know how to
25 cross the Yukon River. And I took offense that our
26 community members would be jeopardized by having a hunt
27 concurrent with the Federal hunt, I took exception to
28 that. I've crossed rivers, large drainages, on ice
29 pans, one day after the ice, if you know how to do it
30 you can do it and if somebody didn't get a moose they
31 should have been afforded the opportunity, but that
32 didn't happen. I talked to the Subsistence Coordinator
33 for Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko, there was only eight moose
34 taken in the spring hunt this year in the State so the
35 quota was 25 moose and so the harvest opportunity is
36 still maintained in March but the quota is not even
37 being taken. Our Council felt that people should have
38 opportunity -- or should be able to take moose in
39 December, and, of course, we don't have idiots for
40 hunters, they're not going to go across the river and
41 shoot a bull moose that's all skinny when they can take
42 cows in the described area in December. But the State
43 didn't adopt our regulation. So we defaulted to the
44 spring hunt.
45

46 But I want the Board to be aware that
47 there is a special action request to take moose right
48 now so this Coronavirus thing was not anticipated, so I
49 wanted the Board to be aware that there were several
50

1 reasons why our Council felt that there needed to be
2 additional harvest opportunity in December and that is
3 primarily because the quotas aren't even being met in
4 March, not like every last moose was taken in March,
5 and if moose are allowed to be taken, any moose, in
6 December, then the hunters will, of course, take a cow
7 or a yearling bull at the most. They're not going to
8 go shoot a skinny bull that's all beat up in December,
9 nobody else is either.

10

11 So that would be my statement, Mr.
12 Chairman, thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
15 Jack. Any questions for Jack.

16

17 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
20 Gene, you have the floor.

21

22 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you. So, Jack,
23 looking at the OSM conclusion, the ISC comment, those
24 come in direct conflict with the Western Interior
25 Council's recommendation and also do you think the
26 Western Interior RAC would best be served by
27 maintaining both of these proposals to be taken as a
28 group or do you think they should at it independently?

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: At this point with the
33 Board action, the Board of Game action taken, I would
34 not want to have a disparate December season until we
35 can get the State to come around to that December, and
36 that's reflected in our record, that we did not want to
37 have disparate seasons on the Federal land in December.
38 But I do feel that we should maintain the hunt
39 opportunities because we're going to get special action
40 requests, and there are special action requests, to
41 have hunting opportunity on Federal public land in the
42 described area. And so those hunts need to be on the
43 books. I don't have any problem with Proposal 36 to
44 delegate authority to the in-season manager to the
45 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Refuge Manager as he is right
46 now, in consultation with the Council. I do feel that
47 we're in a grey zone right now with harvest opportunity
48 for subsistence and I want to reiterate that the herd
49 that we're describing has doubled in population and has

50

1 a very high bull/cow ratio and it's in the lower
2 portion of the Kaiyuh Flats there, and that the --
3 there's opportunity for harvest because they didn't
4 even take the quota this year, it was only eight moose
5 taken, only took a third of the quota.

6
7 Does that answer your question, Gene?

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: I think it gets us closer
10 and I'm going to have to confer with my ISC members
11 before we actually cast a vote on this one. Thank you,
12 Jack.

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

15
16 MS. MAAS: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

19
20 MS. MAAS: Yeah, this is Lisa, for the
21 record and I'd just like to clarify a little bit for
22 Gene's question. And given the Board of Game's action
23 on Proposal 59 and the clarification by the Western
24 Interior Council that they do support the State
25 registration permit as proposed in WP20-36 at their
26 winter meeting. The only difference between the OSM
27 conclusion and the Western Interior RAC's
28 recommendation is OSM recommendation eliminates those
29 to be announced season in Unit 21D remainder in the
30 Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, whereas the Western
31 Interior Council opposed eliminating those hunts, they
32 wanted to maintain those to be announced hunts. So
33 that's the only difference right now between the OSM
34 conclusion and the Western Interior Council's
35 recommendation.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
38 discussion.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
43 thank you. Hearing none, I think we were on Regional
44 Advisory Council recommendation, Chair or designee;
45 thank you for that Jack.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And thank you

50

1 for the clarification there. We'll move on to
2 Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation comments, Native
3 Liaison.

4
5 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 During the consultation session there was nothing said
7 on WP20-36. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
10 Orville. And we'll move on to Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game comments, State Liaison.

12
13 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
15 ADF&G supports WP20-36 as originally submitted by the
16 Refuge to adopt the seasons and bag limits adopted by
17 the Board of Game, which included discontinuing the
18 March 1 season in Unit 21D outside of the RM831 hunt
19 area. That season has not been open for many years and
20 the moose population, even though it can no longer
21 support that hunt.

22
23 We do not support Proposal WP20-37 that
24 would create a December season because currently there
25 is no coinciding State hunt during that hunt period and
26 that would have the potential to create confusion for
27 hunters. This is an especially important concern
28 because of the checkerboard pattern of State and
29 Federal managed lands in that area.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank you
34 for that. Any questions for the State.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
39 InterAgency Staff Committee comments, ISC Chair.

40
41 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
42 is Suzanne Worker. The InterAgency Staff Committee
43 provided the standard comment for WP20-36/37.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
48 That opens up the floor for Board discussion with
49 Council Chairs and State Liaison.

50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
4 Charlie.

5
6 MR. C. BROWER: You're calling on who
7 now?

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We're just
10 getting ready to do Board discussion on this with all
11 the Council Chairs and State Liaison, and the next
12 thing, Charlie, would be to take Federal Board action.

13
14 MR. C. BROWER: Okay, I'll wait.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
17 further discussion we'll go ahead and open the floor
18 for Federal Board action on this proposal.

19
20 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

21
22 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
25 I'll recognize Charlie.

26
27 MR. C. BROWER: Okay. Before we make a
28 motion I want to understand something. Here we are a
29 stalemate where OSM is in support of 36 and not too
30 much of 37, the State is the same way, but then we have
31 the people that live within that area that knows more
32 about the surrounding and the environment and the
33 animals, have a proposal to go their way, and I think
34 -- I don't know, it seems like a stalemate here
35 somewhere down the line, but I'll wait for some other
36 comments from the other Board members.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

41
42 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
45 Gene.

46
47 MR. PELTOLA: So since we haven't
48 entertained a motion yet, so that means we haven't gone
49 to the next phase, could have brought it up a little
50

1 bit earlier, but with the clarification coming from
2 OSM, that the difference between the OSM recommendation
3 and that which is desired by the Western Interior
4 Council, is that, the OSM recommendation does not
5 maintain the to be announced season, which I heard
6 earlier that are a significant part, at least, of what
7 was provided by the Chair of Western Interior, if a
8 motion was being made to -- if a motion is made that
9 does not include those TBA's, if a modification motion
10 is made to include those, what are the Board members
11 thoughts on that, in addition to the Western Interior
12 Chair's thoughts.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
15 open for discussion at this point.

16
17 MR. SIEKANIEC: So Gene, your -- I'm
18 sorry, Mr. Chair, this is Greg.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
21 have the floor, yeah, sorry, I was going to recognize
22 you next.

23
24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks. So, Gene, your
25 question is if we were to retain the December hunt,
26 even though they're perhaps not ever been used, just to
27 keep them on the record, is that what we were hearing
28 from Jack as well, the Interior Regional Advisory
29 Council?

30
31 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Yes, Greg.
32 I do recall Jack Reakoff saying that they would like to
33 maintain the option of those winter hunts. I
34 understand the OSM recommendation does not include
35 those winter hunts. If there's a way to structure a
36 motion to have the TBAs be inclusive rather than not.
37 That's what I was asking about, what was Jack's
38 feelings, and by looking at the schedule, you will
39 probably make the motion on this, correct, so your
40 thoughts.

41
42 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
47 Jack.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: Clarify the TBAs seasons,
50

1 that Koyukuk/Nowitna wants to get rid of, one is for
2 21B in the Nowitna Refuge, and that's a December 1 to
3 March 31 to be announced hunt; the other is a March 1
4 to March 5 hunt up by Huslia in the Koyukuk Controlled
5 Use Area. And the only reason that we haven't executed
6 the 21D Controlled Use Area one is because we've had
7 really deep snow and our cow numbers have declined and
8 we're just waiting for a turnaround. We do not want to
9 lose those hunts. Those hunts were hard fought
10 proposals before the Federal Subsistence Board and we
11 don't want to eliminate them. They consult with the
12 Council Chair, and we have had a few of those hunts
13 previously and we typically get like three to four or
14 five moose taken, and people like that hunt and we want
15 to maintain those hunts. We don't want to lose those
16 in Proposal 36.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. PELTOLA: And, Jack, BIA, thank you
21 for that clarification, that's what we thought your
22 statements were. Thank you.

23

24 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, is that
27 you, Lisa?

28

29 MS. MAAS: Yeah. So I'd just like to
30 clarify a little further. Jack mentioned a hunt in the
31 Nowitna Refuge, that's in Unit 21B, as in 21B Bravo,
32 only hunts in this proposal being considered are in 21D
33 Delta, so that Nowitna Refuge hunt is still on the
34 books, not going to change. The ones that WP20-36
35 eliminated that is in the OSM conclusion are the March
36 1 to March 5 hunt in the Koyukuk CUA and the April 10th
37 to April 15th hunt in the Koyukuk CUA and then the
38 March 1 to 5 hunt in Unit 21D remainder. So those are
39 the to be announced seasons that are in question here.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Lisa. I
42 appreciate your clarification. I was looking at the
43 wrong one there on 21B.

44

45 We still are at the point where we
46 don't want to lose that Koyukuk Controlled Use -- we
47 don't want to throw the baby out with bathwater with
48 Proposal 36.

49

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: So, Jack, this is Tom,
2 so if I'm clarifying this, I'm just trying to keep
3 track of where we're at. If we look at the present
4 Federal regulations we have 21D Koyukuk Controlled Use
5 Area, one bull by State registration permit, September
6 1 through 25, and also on March 1 through 5 season to
7 be announced; you would want to maintain that, correct?
8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Correct.
10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: And then we have the
12 Unit 21D that's the proposal, the old regulation was
13 one antlered bull by Federal permit if there is no
14 March 1 through 5 season and if authorized, you know,
15 by announcement of the Koyukuk/Nowitna National
16 Wildlife Refuge manager and it goes on, but that season
17 was an April 10 through 15 season to be announced. Is
18 that one that would be struck?
19

20 MR. REAKOFF: We could strike that one,
21 that would be in the now new State hunt area which is
22 typically executed from March 1 to March 15th, if I
23 recall correctly.
24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.
26

27 MR. REAKOFF: We don't want to lose the
28 Koyukuk Controlled Use hunts, March 1 to March 5.
29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. And then the
31 other ones I see, that the new part is, Unit 21D, that
32 portion south of the bank of the Yukon down stream and
33 it goes on, you know, it includes Kala Slough and Kala
34 Creek, and then we talk about the Refuge Manager in the
35 new process would be August 22 through 31, September 5
36 through 25, and then March to be announced 15 day
37 season.
38

39 MR. REAKOFF: Correct.
40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. And sorry to
42 belabor that. And then again we have Unit 21D
43 remainder, one moose, however, an antlerless moose may
44 be taken only during September 1 through 21, and if
45 authorized, you know, by the Koyukuk/Nowitna manager
46 and what I saw struck from that, also, was the March 1
47 through 5 season, do you want the March 1 through 5
48 season struck from that Unit 21D remainder?
49
50

1 MR. REAKOFF: I think so. I would have
2 to look at -- see it on the map. But that would -- if
3 it's concurrent with that State March 1 to March 15,
4 then we could eliminate the March 1 to March 5
5 component.

6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. So, yep, so I'm
8 just going to go through each one quick here.

9
10 And then we have the Koyukuk 21D moose
11 Controlled Use Area again to be announced, that would
12 stay the same, and, again, the April 10 through 15
13 would be announced.

14
15 So that was the main thing, it sounds
16 like it really is about the first part of the proposed
17 Federal regulations was that the Koyukuk Controlled
18 Area of one bull by State registration permit, one
19 antlerless moose by Federal permit, if authorized by
20 announcement of the Koyukuk/Nowitna National Wildlife
21 Refuge Manager, harvest of cow moose accompanied by
22 calves is prohibited, a harvestable surplus of cows
23 will be determined for quota, that the addition, you
24 want to maintain the March 1 through 5 season; correct?

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Correct.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Alrighty. Okay.

29
30 MR. PELTOLA: So, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Gene.

33
34 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you to OSM for
35 clarification for that. And if a motion would address
36 those concerns as gone through with the Western
37 Interior Chair, BIA would be supportive of it.

38
39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is Greg
40 with Fish and Wildlife Service.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
43 have the floor.

44
45 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I
46 would like to ask if we could perhaps table this right
47 now while we reconstruct a motion.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I think
50

1 there's nothing that prevents us from holding the vote
2 until we construct a new motion. I don't know if you
3 guys want to take a few minute break or move on to the
4 next proposal.

5

6 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka, I
7 think we could move on to the next proposal, and come
8 back to this.

9

10 MR. SIEKANIEC: This is Greg. I would
11 agree with that, I think we need some time to probably
12 reconstruct this motion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

15

16 MR. SIEKANIEC: And our ISC team member
17 will need to be in contact with the ISC, OSM Staff.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Well,
20 why don't we, just with the concurrence of the Board,
21 and not hearing any opposition, let's table the vote on
22 this motion so we can construct the appropriate
23 language to make sure that we reflect what's intended
24 to support our Regional Advisory Council's
25 recommendations. I see no problem with that if I hear
26 no opposition to that. Let's just hold this vote until
27 we get a motion that we can bring back to the table and
28 we'll entertain the motion either later today or when
29 you guys can do that.

30

31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 I still like your idea of maybe a five minute break
33 though.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I think
36 we need to take a few minute break here.

37

38 Let's take a 10 minute break and we'll
39 come back.

40

41 Please stay on the line. Please.

42

43 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yep, thank you, Mr.
44 Chair.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (On record)

49

50

1 MR. SCHMID: Hey, Tom, I'm back on here,
2 this is Dave.
3
4 MR. PADGETT: Chad's here.
5
6 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda.
7
8 MR. PELTOLA: BIA's on.
9
10 MR. C. BROWER: Charlie's here.
11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Charlie.
13
14 MR. SCHMID: Dave's here.
15
16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Dave.
17
18 MR. REAM: National Park Service is
19 here.
20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Josh.
22
23 I heard Charlie, I heard Rhonda, you're
24 back in, right.
25
26 MS. PITKA: I'm here.
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Rhonda. It looks
29 like we have the full Board back, you're back with us
30 Greg.
31
32 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, Greg is here.
33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good. Tony, it looks
35 like we have everybody.
36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right on, that
38 was quick this time, that was a good break, thank you
39 guys for being expedient. I know this is all
40 challenging to us. So we'll go ahead and move on to
41 the next proposal.
42
43 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: The next proposal will
48 be.....
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: One second,
2 Tom, Charlie has a question.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, okay, sorry.

5
6 MR. C. BROWER: Can I be excused for
7 about a half hour, I got to go check on my guys, the
8 ice cracked behind them while they were breaking trail
9 so I just want to go find out some information real
10 quick.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Charlie.
13 Thank you for letting us know that you got to step
14 away, appreciate you informing us and good luck and
15 safety to your men.

16
17 MR. C. BROWER: I'm -- yeah, okay, I'll
18 call back.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
21 you, Charlie.

22
23 MR. C. BROWER: Thanks.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, Tom,
26 the floor is yours.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. What we'll be
29 doing is moving forward, Mr. Chair with Wildlife
30 Closure Review 20-20. Also when we come back, you
31 know, to Wildlife Proposal 36-37, I've been reminded by
32 my Robert's Rule folks to make sure that we'll need a
33 full motion on that and -- but I wrote them back that
34 we hadn't even made it to that stage, we were still
35 just coming out of Board discussion.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, that's
38 appropriate here so thank you for that.

39
40 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair, can I just
41 clarify this point of order. It would actually be best
42 to have the motion to table 20-36/37 before we move on.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I thought we
45 almost made that motion with Greg, and concurrence of
46 the Board, but if we need to make a motion to table to
47 a time later in the meeting, I guess we can do that for
48 order of process.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Sure, we can do that
2 right now very quickly.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
9 Greg.

10
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, I move that we
12 table Proposal WP20-36/37 until a later time in our
13 agenda.

14
15 MR. PELTOLA: Second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any opposition
18 to the motion to table it until a later time in our
19 agenda.

20
21 (No opposition)

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
24 opposition to the motion, we'll table it to a later
25 time. Thank you for that point of order and
26 clarification.

27
28 Okay, Tom, we'll move on to the next
29 one now, thank you, and we'll call on the Staff right
30 after.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you, Mr.
33 Chair.

34
35 MS. MAAS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair
36 and members of the Board. For the record my name is
37 Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the
38 analysis for Closure Review WCR20-20 which begins on
39 Page 979 of your meeting book.

40
41 Wildlife Closure Review 20-20 pertains
42 to the closure of moose hunting in the Kanuti
43 Controlled Use Area in Unit 24 to non-Federally-
44 qualified users. The closure area is depicted on Map 1
45 on Page 980. The Kanuti Controlled Use Area is closed
46 to aircraft for moose hunting purposes under both State
47 and Federal regulations. The Board closed the Kanuti
48 CUA to moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified users
49 in 1992 because subsistence needs were not being met
50

1 and because harvest met or exceeded the harvestable
2 surplus.

3
4 At their March 2020 meeting, the Alaska
5 Board of Game adopted Proposal 61, which extended the
6 closing date of the resident moose season in the Kanuti
7 CUA by five days from September 25th to October 1st and
8 aligned State and Federal moose seasons. Since 1999
9 the moose population within the Kanuti CUA has appeared
10 stable. Between 1999 and 2017, densities ranged from
11 .2 to .48 moose per square mile, which is typical for
12 Interior Alaska moose populations that are limited by
13 predation. Bull/cow ratios have been consistently high
14 ranging from 51 to 75 bulls per 100 cows indicating
15 bulls are not being overharvested. Since 2004 calf/cow
16 ratios have exceeded 30 calves per 100 cows suggesting
17 adequate productivity for population growth.

18
19 The Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan
20 prescribes a conservative harvest rate of five percent
21 for the Kanuti CUA moose population. This translates
22 to an estimated 65 moose based on the 2017 population
23 estimate. Since Federal lands within the Kanuti CUA
24 are closed to non-Federally-qualified hunters, all
25 harvest is by Federally-qualified subsistence users
26 mostly by residents of Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles and
27 Evansville, however, before the closure in 1992 local
28 residents still accounted for the majority of moose
29 harvest in the Kanuti CUA due to the aircraft
30 restrictions. Between 2006 and 2017 moose harvest by
31 Federal registration permit in Unit 24B ranged from
32 zero to 5 moose per year. Over the same period and
33 area, reported moose harvest under State regulations
34 averaged 35 moose per year. However, unreported
35 harvest in Unit 24 is significant. Between 1997 and
36 2002 unreported harvest rates for Unit 24 residents
37 were estimated at 76 percent. At the Western Interior
38 Council meeting members testified that subsistence
39 needs in Allakaket and Alatna were not being met, and
40 that deep snow during the winter of 2018/2019 likely
41 negatively impacted the moose population resulting in
42 little recruitment that year.

43
44 OSM's recommendation is to maintain the
45 status quo because subsistence needs are not being met
46 indicating this closure is still warranted for the
47 continuation of subsistence uses.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 that presentation. Any questions for the Staff.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
7 we'll call on the summary of public comment from
8 Regional Council Coordinator.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
11 members of the Board. Katya Wessels OSM. We received
12 no written public comments for WCR20-20.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Is
17 there anyone on line, the floor is open for public
18 testimony.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
23 we'll go to Regional Advisory Council recommendation,
24 Chair or designee.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: The Western Interior
27 Regional Council voted unanimously to support
28 continuing the closure for moose in Unit 24 within the
29 Kanuti Controlled Use Area. 2017/18 were deep snow
30 year, not as bad as 2018/19, '18 and '19 we had five
31 feet of snow from Coldfoot, just at the bottom edge of
32 the mountains all the way to Allakaket. When I hunted
33 moose last fall I -- my perception was that there was a
34 40 percent decline in the moose population, there's not
35 been a survey, snow conditions were incorrect to get a
36 survey, weather conditions and so forth, and so there's
37 no current data. Again, 2019/20 we had four feet of
38 snow by Coldfoot, that went all the way down to
39 Allakaket again for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area,
40 again, a bad winter. So the Western Interior Council
41 has proposed a season alignment with the Federal hunt
42 that we have in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area and
43 we're -- through the Board of Game, aligning now, a
44 season closure for bull moose will close on October 1
45 concurrent with the Federal hunts that we've had for a
46 few years now. So people are not -- climate change
47 causes moose to move later in the season and hunting
48 opportunities of encountering moose right up until the
49 last part of September are minimal and so we have the
50

1 season extension, we have a declining moose population
2 and we need to maintain that Federal priority.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Jack. Any questions for Jack.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
12 Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation comments, Native
13 Liaison.

14

15 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for Office of Subsistence
17 Management. During the consultation session there was
18 no comments made on WCR20-20.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
23 Orville. We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish
24 and Game comments, State Liaison.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
29 the State available.

30

31 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes, Sir, sorry about
32 that. We do not have any comment for this closure
33 review.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank you
36 for that. We will move on to InterAgency Staff
37 Committee comment, ISC Chair.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Again, is that
42 Suzanne, ISC Committee comments, ISC Chair.

43

44 MS. WORKER: Sorry about that, am I
45 with you now?

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you are,
48 thank you.

49

50

1 MS. WORKER: The InterAgency Staff
2 Committee provided the standard comment for WCR20-20.
3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
6 We'll move on to any Board discussion with Council
7 Chair and State Liaison.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
12 we'll open up the floor for Federal Board action on
13 this.

14
15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg, with
16 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
19 floor, Greg.

20
21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 I move to maintain the status quo for Wildlife Closure
23 20-20. The wildlife closure language is shown on Page
24 981 of the Board book. Following a second I will
25 provide justification for why I intend to support my
26 motion.

27
28 MR. PELTOLA: Second.

29
30 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka, I
31 second.

32
33 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Review of
34 the biological data does not appear to indicate a
35 conservation concern for this population, however, the
36 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council indicates
37 that subsistence users most dependent on these animals
38 are unable to meet their subsistence needs. There has
39 been concern expressed that 2018 and 2019 winters have
40 had substantial snows that may have caused this
41 population to decline since the last survey in 2017.
42 The population objective for Unit 24B of 4,000 animals
43 has not been achieved and is currently below the
44 State's objective. As indicated by the harvest
45 records, much of the harvest may go unreported, and,
46 thus, the actual subsistence needs are unknown. Until
47 a more recent population survey can be completed it is
48 appropriate to support the Western Interior Regional
49 Advisory concern and continue this closure to ensure
50

1 that subsistence needs are being met.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any additional Board comment or discussion.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A call for the question.

12

13

MS. PITKA: Question.

14

15

16

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been called. Thank you, Rhonda, appreciate that. Tom, roll call.

17

18

19

20

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is for the closure review 20-20 review to closure to moose hunting in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area of Unit 24B except by Federally-qualified users and it's to support the OSM conclusion and the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council's recommendation to maintain the status quo.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Rhonda Pitka.

28

29

30

MS. PITKA: I support maintaining the status quo for WCR20-20 and in deference to the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommendation. And I share their concerns about the harvest not achieving the needs for subsistence.

31

32

33

34

35

Thank you.

36

37

38

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

39

40

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

41

42

MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs supports maintaining the status quo as recommended by the Western Interior Council and identified in WCR20-20.

43

44

45

46

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

47

48

U.S. Forest Service, Wayne Owen.

49

50

1 MR. SCHMID: Dave's back on.
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi Dave.
4
5 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, so the Forest Service
6 supports maintaining the status quo for WCR20-20 in
7 deference to the Western Interior Advisory Council.
8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
10
11 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
12 Padgett.
13
14 MR. PADGETT: I support in deference to
15 the RAC.
16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
18
19 National Park Service, Josh Ream.
20
21 MR. REAM: The National Park Service
22 votes to maintain the status quo and in deference to
23 the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Josh.
28
29 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
30 Siekaniec.
31
32 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. The
33 Fish and Wildlife Service supports maintaining the
34 status quo for WCR 20-20 in deference to Western
35 Interior Regional Advisory Council.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: I presuming that
40 Charlie's still out in the field checking on his guys,
41 so I'll move to Chairman Anthony Christianson.
42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
44 deference to the RAC. Thank you, Tom.
45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you much, Tony.
47 Motion passes.
48
49 Mr. Chair, that moves us to Wildlife
50

1 Closure Review 20-39.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll call on
4 Staff to present the analysis, thank you.

5

6 MS. MAAS: All right, thank you, Mr.
7 Chair, members of the Board. Lisa Maas for the record.
8 I'll be presenting a summary for the analysis for
9 Closure Review WCR20-39, which begins on Page 993 of
10 your meeting book.

11

12 Wildlife Closure Review 20-39 pertains
13 to the closure of moose hunting in the eastern portion
14 of Unit 19A to all users. The closure area is depicted
15 in Map 1 on Page 995. Unit 19A, north of the Kuskokwim
16 River up stream from but excluding the George River
17 drainage and south of the Kuskokwim River up stream
18 from and including the Downey Creek drainage, not
19 including the Lime Village Management Area, which,
20 hereafter, will be referred to Unit 19A east was closed
21 under State regulations in 2006 and under Federal
22 regulations in 2007 because of conservation concerns
23 including low productivity, low bull/cow ratios and
24 high hunting pressure.

25

26 In March 2019 the Alaska Board of Game
27 adopted Proposal 127 as amended by the Stony/Holitna AC
28 to open a Tier I registration hunt for moose in Unit
29 19A east. The hunt is very conservative with a five
30 day season and permits only available in Sleetmute and
31 Stony River on a first come, first serve basis. The
32 number of permits will be announced annually. Since
33 2008 the Unit 19A east moose population has appeared
34 relatively stable but has remained well below
35 management objectives. The State has conducted wolf
36 control in Unit 19A east since 2006 and in 2013 and
37 2014 the State removed bears from 14 percent of Unit
38 19A east. While moose densities within the bear
39 control area are above State management objectives,
40 moose densities in the remainder of Unit 19A east are
41 well below objectives. Bull/cow ratios are adequate
42 and have exceeded 30 bulls per 100 cows since 2007. No
43 legal moose harvest occurred in Unit 19A east between
44 2006 and 2018 when the area was closed under State and
45 Federal regulations. In 2019 the State opened a
46 limited hunt, 30 permits were issued and eight moose
47 were harvested.

48

49 OSM's recommendation is to eliminate

50

1 the closure in Unit 19A east to mirror the recently
2 adopted State regulations. Establishing a Federal
3 season provides more harvest opportunity to Federally-
4 qualified subsistence users and prevent Federal
5 regulations from being more restrictive than State
6 regulations. Also the new hunt is extremely
7 conservative with a short season and a limited number
8 of permits. Additionally, the Unit 19A east moose
9 population can sustain a limited bull harvest due to a
10 sufficient number of large bulls and high bull/cow
11 ratios.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
16 that presentation. Any questions for Staff.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
21 we'll move on to summary of public comment, Regional
22 Council Coordinator.

23
24 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
25 members of the Board. Katya Wessels with the Office of
26 Subsistence Management. We received no written public
27 comments for WCR20-39.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
32 Katya. At this time we'll open the floor to the public
33 if anyone wants to testify on line, this is your
34 opportunity.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
39 we will go on to the Regional Advisory Council
40 recommendation, Chair or designee.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, Jack
43 Reakoff. The Council voted unanimously to eliminate
44 the closure in 19A east to mirror the recently adopted
45 State regulation which established a Tier II
46 registration permit in the hunt area. The permit would
47 be a joint Federal/State permit that is only available
48 to local communities during July to allow the harvest
49 of one antlered bull per household. The number of

50

1 available permits will be announced annually.

2

3 There was extensive discussion between
4 the Council, the Office of Subsistence Management and
5 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game regarding this
6 closure. The Council believes the Unit 19A moose
7 population can support limited bull harvest in this
8 area due to the high bull/cow ratios. The Council
9 commented that the only issuing permits -- that only
10 issuing permits to local communities gives local people
11 the first opportunity of obtaining those permits.

12

13 So the Council supported eliminating
14 this particular closure.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
19 questions for Jack.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll move on
24 to Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation comments, Native
25 Liaison.

26

27 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Orville Lind, Native Liaison, Office of Subsistence
29 Management. There were no comments on WCR20-39.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
34 We'll move on to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 comments, State Liaison.

36

37 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. No
39 comment.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
42 We'll move to InterAgency Staff Committee comment, ISC
43 Chair.

44

45 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
46 InterAgency Staff Committee offered the standard
47 comment for WCR20-39.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
2 Board discussion with the Council Chair or the State
3 Liaison.

4
5 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

8
9 MS. MAAS: The Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
10 Regional Advisory Council also considered this closure
11 review, so I don't know if Alissa's on line to give
12 that recommendation, otherwise I can.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I'd like
15 to hear that prior to us opening the floor for Board
16 action. Thank you for that Lisa.

17
18 Alissa.

19
20 MS. MAAS: Okay, not hearing Alissa.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alissa.

23
24 MS. MAAS: Not hearing Alissa, I'll
25 just read it. The Council voted to defer to the
26 Western Interior Council. The Council noted that both
27 the YKDelta and the Western Interior Council supported
28 the original closure in 2007 as well as continuing the
29 closure in 2014 when it was last reviewed. The Council
30 mentioned that some Unit 18 residents do hunt in this
31 area but felt comfortable deferring to and supporting
32 the recommendation of the home region.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
37 that Lisa. Any other Board discussion with Council
38 Chair or State Liaison, or clarification.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
43 I'll open up the floor for Board action on this
44 proposal.

45
46 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett
47 with BLM.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor's

50

1 yours Chad.
2

3 MR. PADGETT: All right, thank you,
4 Sir. I'd like to make a motion. I move to rescind the
5 closure for WCR 20-39 to mirror the new State
6 regulations as amended by OSM. This proposal is Page
7 on 993 of the Board book. Following a second I will
8 explain why I intend to support this motion.
9

10 MR. SCHMID: This is Dave, I second.
11

12 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Dave. My
13 justification is the following: Due to the
14 conservative nature of the proposal to open the area
15 hunts are extremely conservative with a short season
16 and limited number of permits available. Moose
17 population has slightly increased. There's a small
18 harvestable surplus, it achieves alignment with the
19 recently adopted State regulation and supports the
20 Western Interior Council position with the only
21 difference being the utilization of the State's permit
22 instead of a joint State/Federal permit.
23

24 With that, I'll close my motion.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
27 Chad. Any additional Board discussion.
28

29 (No comments)
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, a
32 call for the question.
33

34 MS. PITKA: Question.
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
37 called. Roll call, Tom, thank you.
38

39 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is Closure Review
40 WCR20-39 review the closure to moose hunting in the
41 eastern portion of 19A to all users. The motion on the
42 floor was to eliminate this closure to mirror recently
43 adopted State regulations. The new regulations would
44 read: Unit 19A north of the Kuskokwim River up stream
45 from but excluding the George River drainage and south
46 of the Kuskokwim River up stream and including the
47 Downey Creek drainage, not including the Lime Village
48 Management Area, one antlered bull by State
49 registration permit available in Sleetmute and Stony
50

1 River on July 24th, permits issued on a first come,
2 first serve basis, number of permits to be announced
3 annually, the season is September 1 through 5.

4
5 Rhonda Pitka.

6
7 MS. PITKA: I support eliminating the
8 closure for WCR20-39 in deference to the Western
9 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
14 Rhonda.

15
16 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

17
18 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I support to
19 eliminate the closure for WCR20-39 in deference to the
20 Western Interior RAC.

21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

23
24 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
25 Siekaniec.

26
27 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
28 support the motion to eliminate the closure in WCR20-39
29 in deference to the Western Interior Regional Advisory
30 Council and justification provided by the Bureau of
31 Land Management.

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
34 Greg.

35
36 National Park Service, Joshua Ream.

37
38 MR. REAM: Thank you, Tom. The
39 National Park service supports eliminating the closure
40 for WCR20-39 in deference to the Western Interior
41 Regional Advisory Council.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And Bureau of
46 Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: BIA votes to modify the
49 existing closure policy WCR20-39 to mirror the State
50

1 regulation as recommended by the Western Interior
2 Regional Advisory Council.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, thank you very
5 much, Gene.

6
7 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
8 Padgett.

9
10 MR. PADGETT: I support, thank you.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

13
14 Chairman Anthony Christianson.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Support in
17 deference to the RAC. Thank you.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 The motion passes.

21
22 That moves us along, Mr. Chair, to
23 Wildlife Closure Review 20-43.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, we'll
26 call on the Staff present that Tom.

27
28 MS. MAAS: All right, thank you, Mr.
29 Chair and members of the Board. For the record my name
30 is Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the
31 analysis for Closure Review WCR20-43 which begins on
32 Page 1008 of your meeting book.

33
34 Wildlife Closure Review 20-43 pertains
35 to the closure of moose hunting in Unit 19A remainder
36 to everyone except residents of six local communities.
37 Unit 19A remainder is depicted in Map 1 on Page 1010
38 and includes the western portion of Unit 19A and the
39 Lime Village Management Area. Unit 19A remainder was
40 closed under Federal regulations in 2007 because of
41 conservation concerns including low productivity, low
42 bull/cow ratios and high hunting pressure. A Section
43 .804 analysis determined residents of Tuluksak, Lower
44 Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, and Crooked
45 Creek to be most dependent on the Unit 19A remainder
46 moose population.

47
48 Authority was delegated to the Yukon
49 Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager to annually
50

1 announce harvest quotas and number of permits.

2

3 Unit 19A remainder primarily falls into
4 the Aniak survey area, while the moose population in
5 the Aniak survey area appeared relative stable between
6 2006 and 2010, it increased significantly in 2017 and
7 density estimates for the Aniak survey area in 2017 of
8 1.3 moose per square mile were well above management
9 objectives of .75 to .93 moose per square mile, however
10 ADF&G also surveyed the entire western portion of Unit
11 19A for the first time in 2017 and density estimates
12 for this larger area were just below management
13 objectives at .7 moose per square mile. While bull/cow
14 ratios are within management objectives they were on
15 the lower end in 2016 and 2017 averaging 21 bulls per
16 100 cows. Calf/cow ratios have met or exceeded
17 management objectives since 2011. Predation likely
18 influences moose abundance in Unit 19 and may be
19 limiting population growth. In 2019 ADF&G estimated a
20 harvestable surplus for Unit 19A remainder as 160 to
21 165 moose per year and total reported harvest is
22 roughly 150 to 160 moose per year. However, low
23 bull/cow ratios in 2016 and 2017 suggest few surplus
24 bulls are available for harvest.

25

26 OSM's recommendation is to maintain the
27 closure in western Unit 19A, eliminate the closure for
28 the Lime Village Management Area and remove the
29 regulatory language about quotas and permits and
30 delegate authority to the Yukon Delta Refuge Manager to
31 set quotas and permit numbers via delegation of
32 authority letter only. No change to the closure in
33 western Unit 19A is recommended due to low bull/cow
34 ratios in 2016 and 2017 and because reported harvest
35 approximates the harvestable surplus. Additionally,
36 the Yukon Delta Refuge Manager has delegated authority
37 to adjust in-season harvest parameters. The Lime
38 Village Management Area is currently part of Unit 19A
39 remainder but the Section .804 analysis failed to
40 realize this. OSM recommends establishing the Lime
41 Village Management Area as a separate hunt area similar
42 to State regulations. The recommended season and
43 harvest limits and permit requirements for the Lime
44 Village Management Area mirror the current State
45 regulations. The Lime Village community hunt would not
46 be affected by this modification except that
47 eliminating the Federal closure would allow moose
48 hunting on Federal lands within the Lime Village
49 Management Area under both State and Federal

50

1 regulations. A delegation of authority letter
2 simplifies regulations and provides management
3 flexibility.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
8 questions for Staff.

9
10 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
13 Gene.

14
15 MR. PELTOLA: I have a question in
16 regard to the current regulation, and the stipulation
17 to the Refuge Manager Yukon Delta NWR in corporation
18 with BLM Field Office will annually establish a harvest
19 quota, the number of permits issued in coordination
20 with the State Tier I hunt. You go down to the OSM
21 conclusion, part of that verbiage stipulates that, and
22 remove the regulatory language when referring to
23 establishing quotas, permit numbers and delegate
24 authority to the Yukon Delta NWR manager set quotas,
25 permit numbers via delegation of authority letter only.
26 Have we looked at those residents that are involved in
27 this potential harvest via the .804, we have Tuluksak,
28 Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, which are within
29 the conservation unit but Chuathbaluk and Crooked
30 Creek, which is a portion of the main stem of the
31 Kuskokwim going up river, BLM adjacent lands, and it
32 would potentially remove BLM from the delegation aspect
33 of the hunt.

34
35 Is BLM aware of that and do they concur
36 with that?

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, Gene, if
41 I followed you there, I think your question was to the
42 BLM, and if they were aware that it would exclude them
43 from having oversight in the hunt; am I correct?

44
45 MR. PELTOLA: Affirmative, yes, Mr.
46 Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. BLM.

49
50

1 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, you have
4 the floor Chad.

5

6 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. Sorry.
7 Thanks, Gene. I'm looking at it now. This motion was
8 on my list and now I believe it's transferred over to
9 Fish and Wildlife Service, so I'm looking at it now,
10 the in-season management, I did not realize went over
11 to Fish and Wildlife Service, to answer your question.

12

13 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

16

17 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I just wanted to
18 clarify that even though in Unit 19A there's -- it's
19 mostly BLM land, with a little bit of Fish and Wildlife
20 Service land, the majority of harvest occurs on that
21 Fish and Wildlife Service land because it's just so
22 accessible from the Kuskokwim River. So that's under
23 the Federal regulations where the vast majority of the
24 moose harvest occurs.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

27

28 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA. I just
29 wanted to make sure that BLM was aware with the
30 proposed regulation, if it's being modified, that it
31 would exclude them from the delegation.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
38 you have the floor.

39

40 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, again, Gene, I've
41 got it. I appreciate it.

42

43 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
44 Greg.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, you have
47 the floor.

48

49 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 So, Chad, the delegation to the Refuge Manager is one
2 thing, but the expected coordination would still be
3 there in my opinion. So I don't -- you know, I think
4 -- you know, we would have a high degree of
5 communications with the Bureau of Land Management as
6 well.

7

8 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Greg.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
11 I think this was all a question that was spurred to
12 Staff, so if there's no further questions for Staff,
13 we'll move on to the summary of public comment,
14 Regional Council Coordinator.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
17 members of the Board. Katya Wessels. We received no
18 written public comments for WCR20-43.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
23 Katya. So we'll at this time open the floor to any
24 public who may be on line.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
29 we'll go to the Regional Advisory Council
30 recommendation, Chair or designee.

31

32 MR. REAKOFF: Western Interior Regional
33 Council Chair, Jack Reakoff. The Council voted to
34 unanimously support maintaining the current moose
35 hunting closure in the western portion of 19A as
36 described. The Council is very concerned about the low
37 bull/cow ratio, which is indicating high consumptive
38 use by hunters and that the harvestable surplus is
39 being maximized currently. And so the Council feels
40 that the status quo is warranted.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
45 Jack. Any questions from the Board for Jack.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,

50

1 we'll go to the Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation
2 comments, Native Liaison Orville Lind.

3

4 MS. MAAS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

7

8 MS. MAAS: Yeah, the Yukon Kuskokwim
9 Delta Regional Advisory Council also considered this
10 closure review and the YK Delta Council voted to defer
11 to the Western Interior Council supporting its
12 recommendation.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank you
17 for that.

18

19 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
20 is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for Office of
21 Subsistence Management. During the consultation
22 session we did not hear any comments on WCR20-43.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
27 Orville. We'll move on to the Alaska Department of
28 Fish and Game comments, State Liaison.

29

30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is Greg
31 with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg.

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: I just wanted to ask
36 Jack a question. Because the information that I have
37 it looks like the Western Interior Regional Advisory
38 Committee [sic] requested to eliminate the Federal
39 closure for the Lime Village Management area, which
40 would then align Federal seasons with State regulations
41 and then to recommend that village residents given
42 .804, to add Lime Village residents to .804 communities
43 for the remainder of 19A in the future.

44

45 Jack, is that accurate?

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Yes. The Lime Village
48 area is not accessed very easily but the western
49 portion of 19A is right along the river corridor and

50

1 that has heavy hunting pressure and has demonstrated by
2 the low bull/cow ratio there's that population is still
3 being harvested fairly heavily so that's why the
4 disparity in the Council's actions.

5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay, thank you. Thank
7 you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
10 you. Any other questions before we call on the State,
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, liaison.

12
13 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair. This is Mark
14 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game. The State
15 has no comments on this closure.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
18 Mark. We'll call on InterAgency Staff Committee
19 comment, ISC Chair.

20
21 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
22 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
23 comment for WCR20-43.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
26 Board discussion with Council Chairs and State Liaison,
27 your opportunity to ask questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll open the
32 floor for Federal Board action on this proposal.

33
34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
35 Siekaniec with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
38 have the floor.

39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 I move to support Wildlife Closure Review 20-43 as
42 modified by the Office of Subsistence Management.
43 Modified wildlife closure language is shown on Page
44 1021 of the Board book. Following a second, I will
45 provide justification for why I support this motion.

46
47 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka, I'll
48 second.

49
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. The
2 modified closure supports the Western Interior Regional
3 Advisory Committee [sic] request to eliminate the
4 Federal closure for the Lime Village Management Area
5 and aligns Federal seasons with State regulations,
6 thus, reducing regulatory confusion.
7

8 Since the bull/cow ratio in the western
9 portion of Unit 19A remainder is at the lower end of
10 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game objective, it
11 makes sense to wait until a more robust bull/cow ratio
12 is detected before relaxing the closure in this area.
13 The increased harvest opportunities for Lime Village,
14 the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council may want
15 to consider submitting a proposal to the Board to add
16 Lime Village residents to the .804 communities for Unit
17 19A remainder.
18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
22 Board discussion, deliberation.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
27 we'll call for the question.
28

29 MR. SCHMID: Question.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
32 Roll call, please, Tom.
33

34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Mr. Chair. This
35 pertains to Closure Review WCR20-43 review closure to
36 moose hunting in Unit 19A remainder, except by the
37 residents of Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag,
38 Aniak and Chuathbaluk and Crooked Creek. It's to
39 modify the closure for WCR20-43 to maintain the closure
40 in the western portion of Unit 19A, eliminate the
41 closure for Lime Village Management Area, establish
42 seasons, harvest limits and permit requirements for
43 Lime Village Management Area hunt area and remove the
44 regulatory language referring to establishing quotas
45 and permit numbers and delegate authority to the Yukon
46 Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager to set quotas
47 and permit numbers via delegation of authority letter
48 only. There was also the recommendation to see if Lime
49 Village could be added to that as well.
50

1 I'll start with Bureau of Indian
2 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

3
4 MR. PELTOLA: BIA votes to support
5 maintaining the closure as modified.

6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
8
9 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
10 Padgett.

11
12 MR. PADGETT: I support to maintain the
13 closure as modified. Thank you.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thanks, Chad.
16
17 National Park Service, Don Striker or
18 Josh Ream.

19
20 MR. REAM: The National Park Service
21 votes to maintain as modified as well. Thank you, very
22 much.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Josh.
25
26 Rhonda Pitka.

27
28 MS. PITKA: Hi. I vote to modify the
29 closure. Thank you.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

32
33 U.S. Forest Service, Dave Schmid.

34
35 MR. SCHMID: Also support the modified
36 closure for WCR20-43.

37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

39
40 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
41 Siekaniec.

42
43 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
44 support to maintain the closure of WCR20-43 as modified
45 in deference to the Western Interior Regional Advisory
46 Council and justification provided.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
2 Greg.

3
4 And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
7 deference to the RAC.

8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Tony. The
10 motion passes. This brings us, Mr. Chair, to Wildlife
11 Proposal 20-38.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
14 call on the Staff to present that, thank you.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: These are Seward
19 Peninsula proposals, looking for Lisa or Suzanne.

20
21 MS. MAAS: Yes, that's me, sorry, just
22 a moment.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Lisa, no
25 problem.

26
27 MS. MAAS: Okay. So, yeah, I'll be
28 presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife
29 Proposal 20-38 which begins on Page 1029 of your
30 meeting book.

31
32 Proposal WP20-38 was submitted by the
33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and requests that
34 the December and January moose seasons in Unit 22D
35 remainder be combined into a may be announced season.
36 That the October 1st to November 30th season be
37 eliminated. And that the harvest limit for all seasons
38 be modified to one bull by State registration permit.

39
40 Of note, a similar proposal WP20-39
41 also requests changes to the Unit 22D remainder moose
42 regulations. WP20-39 is on the consensus agenda as
43 take no action.

44
45 Proposal WP20-40 requests closing moose
46 hunting in Unit 22D remainder to non-Federally-
47 qualified users. WP20-40 will be considered next, but,
48 please remember that action taken on WP20-38 will
49 affect the effects of WP20-40.

50

1 The proponent is concerned about cow
2 moose harvest, disturbance of breeding bulls and the
3 declining moose population and bull/cow ratios in Unit
4 22D remainder. The proponent believes current harvest
5 levels are not sustainable and that requiring a State
6 registration permit will provide better harvest data to
7 help manage moose harvest at sustainable levels.
8

9 Since 2016, the Board has approved
10 special action requests to eliminate the December cow
11 moose season in Unit 22D remainder because of
12 conservation concerns. In 2019 ADF&G submitted
13 Proposal 33 to the Alaska Board of Game requesting the
14 same changes as this proposal. The Board of Game
15 adopted Proposal 33 at its January 2020 meeting
16 effective July of this year. The Board of Game also
17 adopted Proposal 35 which limits permit availability to
18 Unit 22 vendors between July 27th and August 25th,
19 meaning non-local hunters will have to make an
20 additional trip to Unit 22 to obtain a permit.
21

22 The Unit 22D moose population declined
23 substantially between 2011 and 2014 and was half of the
24 population objective. No population surveys have been
25 conducted since 2014. Bull/cow ratios have also
26 declined and are below the State objective of 30 bulls
27 per 100 cows. In 2018 the ratio was only 18 bulls per
28 100 cows. Recruitment also appears poor, only 12
29 percent in 2018. Moose harvest in Unit 22D remainder
30 exceeds the harvestable surplus and is unsustainable.
31 Current harvest rates are seven to 10 percent while
32 harvest rates of three to five percent are recommended.
33 Unit 22 residents account for 74 percent of reported
34 moose harvest in Unit 22D remainder, and 59 percent of
35 reported harvest occurs in October. While adopting
36 this proposal would decrease opportunity for
37 subsistence users, it could help protect to recover the
38 reclining moose population in Unit 22D remainder.
39 Requiring a State registration permit would allow for
40 more accurate harvest data and uses a harvest quota to
41 conserve the moose population and ensure sustainable
42 harvest. Adopting this proposal would align State and
43 Federal regulations.
44

45 The OSM conclusion is to support WP20-
46 38 with modification to delegate authority to the
47 Federal manager to announce harvest quotas, close the
48 fall season and open a may be announced season between
49 December 1st and January 31st via delegation of
50

1 authority letter only and to modify the harvest limit
2 for the may be announced season to be one antlered
3 bull. The proponent intended for the winter season
4 harvest limit to be one antlered bull to prevent
5 accidental take and harassment of cows and to align
6 with State regulations.

7
8 Another consideration for this proposal
9 is how and where to address delegated authority.

10
11 OSM recommends putting it in a
12 delegation of authority letter. The other option is to
13 have this language in unit specific regulations. The
14 Seward Peninsula Council and the State did not
15 explicitly address delegated authority in their
16 recommendation, however, the Board must address this
17 language in order for the regulation to be complete.

18
19 It's also worth remembering, that WP20-
20 40 also concerns moose in Unit 22D remainder and will
21 be considered next.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
26 Questions for Staff.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
31 we'll call on the summary of public comments from the
32 Regional Council Coordinator.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
35 members of the Board. Katya Wessels, OSM for the
36 record. We received no written public comments for
37 WP20-38.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
42 We'll open up the floor to public testimony, anybody on
43 line.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
48 we'll go ahead and move on to Regional Advisory Council
49 recommendations, Chair or designee.

50

1 MR. GREEN: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
2 Louis Green, Seward Peninsula Chair. Am I coming
3 through good?
4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, and
6 welcome aboard Louis, I hear you fine.
7

8 MR. GREEN: All right, thank you. The
9 Council voted unanimously to support the WP20-38 with
10 modification to modify the harvest limit for the
11 December 1st, January 31st season to one antlered bull
12 in Unit 22D remainder. The Council believes it may be
13 -- the may be announced system for the winter hunt
14 would be the best to protect the low moose population
15 in Unit 22D remainder and allow for additional harvest
16 during December and January only if the harvest quota
17 was not met in the fall. We were -- as a Council we
18 were reluctant to eliminate that October 1st to
19 November 30th because of the percentage reported by the
20 State at that time but we get that sacrifice is
21 necessary to protect the bulls in rut at that time.
22 And the idea for the antlered hunt to be taking place,
23 antlered bull, was to make sure that there was no cows
24 taken. The Council agreed that a registration permit
25 is needed to capture the actual moose harvest in Unit
26 22.
27

28 Thank you.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Louis. Any questions for Louis.
32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, was
40 somebody trying to be recognized.
41

42 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
43 Greg.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
46 have the floor.
47

48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Could I ask Lisa a
49 question, so twice in her presentation she noted the
50

1 relationship between 38 and 40, and I was just
2 wondering if she could expound on that just a little
3 bit for me.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Lisa,
6 please.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll call on
11 Lisa again.

12
13 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair, it's Suzanne.
14 I think I can answer that question if Lisa's not
15 available.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
18 you, Suzanne, you have the floor.

19
20 MS. WORKER: Mr. Siekaniec, Proposal
21 WP20-40 requests that moose hunting in Unit 22D
22 remainder -- it request the Federal public lands are
23 closed in Unit 22D remainder to the harvest of moose.

24
25 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay, thank you,
26 Suzanne.

27
28 MS. WORKER: Sure.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm sorry,
35 guys, I keep getting somebody choppy and it sounds like
36 they're trying to be recognized so I apologize.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
41 questions for the Staff or the Regional Advisory
42 Council Chair.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
47 we'll move on to the Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation
48 comments, Native Liaison Orville Lind.

49
50

1 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Orville Lind, Native Liaison, Office of Subsistence
3 Management. During the consultation we had no comments
4 on WP20-38.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Orville. Next we'll call on the State, Alaska
10 Department of Fish and Game, State Liaison.

11
12 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
14 and Game. The Department supports WP20-38 the creation
15 of a registration permit hunt in the Unit 22 remainder
16 hunt area in order to maintain harvest at sustainable
17 levels and improve reporting compliance. Declines in
18 the bull/cow ratio suggests that the current level of
19 harvest is not sustainable and that management action
20 should be taken to reduce harvest in the area for that
21 concern. The Board of Game took action during the
22 January meeting that mirrors this proposal.

23
24 I will note that we had area Staff
25 review OSM's modifications and the Department is in
26 support of those.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
31 questions for the State.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll call on
36 InterAgency Staff Committee comment, ISC Chair.

37
38 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 It's Suzanne again. And before I deliver the
40 InterAgency Staff Committee, I just want to clarify my
41 answer to Mr. Siekaniec's question. So WP20-40
42 requests that Federal public lands in Unit 22D
43 remainder be closed to moose hunting except by
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users. So that last
45 detail is an important one.

46
47 The InterAgency Staff Committee
48 provided the standard comment for WP20-38.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
4 Suzanne. We'll move on to any Board discussion with
5 Council Chair or the State Liaison.

6
7 MS. ROGERS: Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

10
11 MS. ROGERS: Sorry, Mr. Chair, this is
12 Alissa Rogers with the YKDelta RAC, Subsistence
13 Council.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
16 the floor Alissa.

17
18 MS. ROGERS: Sorry about that,
19 disregard.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, okay, no
22 comment.

23
24 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
27 BIA, Gene, you have the floor.

28
29 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, I have one
30 question. So while I understand it correctly that the
31 Council modification presented by the Seward Penn
32 became the OSM modified conclusion; is that correct?

33
34 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
37 Lisa.

38
39 MS. MAAS: Yeah, thank you, guys, I'm
40 glad you can hear me now.

41
42 The only major difference between the
43 OSM conclusion and the Seward Peninsula Council
44 recommendation is considering the delegation of
45 authority, because the Council didn't explicitly
46 address this, so -- but the OSM recommendation
47 recommends putting that in a delegation of authority
48 letter and the Board needs to address that somehow,
49 whether it's in regulations or in a delegation of
50

1 authority letter so it's a complete regulation.

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, appreciate
4 that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
7 other Board discussion, questions, clarification.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: If not, we'll
12 open up the floor for Federal Board action on this
13 proposal.

14

15 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett
16 with BLM.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chad, you
19 have the floor.

20

21 MR. PADGETT: I move to adopt WP20-38
22 as modified by OSM. This proposal is shown on Page
23 1029 of the Board book. Following a second, I will
24 explain why I intend to support this motion.

25

26 MR. SCHMID: I second.

27

28 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. It helps to
29 maintain the long-term viability of moose in this area
30 by preventing the take and harassment of cow moose.
31 Fixes a typographical error to make it clear that the
32 intent of the proponent was to modify the harvest
33 limit, to be one antlered bull during the proposed
34 December to January 31st season. It supports the RAC
35 modification. The OSM modification is inclusive of the
36 RAC modification and only adds the delegation of
37 authority letter. It also retains flexibility.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Chad. Any further Board discussion, deliberation.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A call for the
47 question.

48

49 MR. SCHMID: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
2 called. Roll call, Tom, please.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. This is Proposal WP20-38, requests that
6 December and January moose season in Unit 22D remainder
7 be combined in to a may be announced season, that
8 October 1 through November 30 season be eliminated and
9 that the harvest be modified to one bull by State
10 registration permit for both remaining seasons. The
11 motion on the floor is to support Proposal WP20-38 with
12 modification, the OSM conclusion, to delegate authority
13 to the Federal manager to announce harvest quotas,
14 close the fall season and to open a may be announced
15 season between December 1 and January 31 via delegation
16 of authority letter only and modify the harvest limits
17 for the may be announced season between December 1 and
18 January 31 to be one antlered bull. The modification
19 reg should read: Unit 22D remainder, one bull by State
20 registration permit, August 10th through September 14,
21 and Unit 22D remainder, one antlered bull by State
22 registration permit season may be announced December 1
23 through January 31st.

24
25 I'll start with National Park Service,
26 Don Striker.

27
28 MR. REAM: Hi, Tom, this is Josh, I'm
29 going to sit in for the Park Service for this one and
30 Don will be back on starting with the next proposal.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Yeah, I just got
33 the text about it, so your vote.

34
35 MR. REAM: The National Park Service is
36 in support with the modification that was offered in
37 the motion, this is in deference to the RAC as well as
38 to the justification that was provided by the BLM.

39
40 Thank you, very much.

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right, thank you,
43 very much Josh.

44
45 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

46
47 MR. SCHMID: I also support WP20-38
48 with the OSM modification and the justification
49 provided by BLM and in deference to the Seward
50

1 Peninsula RAC.
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
4
5 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
6 Padgett.
7
8 MR. PADGETT: I support, thank you.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
11
12 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.
13
14 MR. PELTOLA: BIA votes to support with
15 modification and justification provided by BLM.
16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
18
19 Rhonda Pitka.
20
21 MS. PITKA: I support as modified with
22 the justification provided by the BLM. Thank you, bye.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
25
26 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
27 Siekaniec.
28
29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
30 support the motion for WP20-38 as modified by the
31 Office of Subsistence Management and in deference to
32 the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council and the
33 Bureau of Land Management's justification.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.
38
39 And last but not least, Chairman
40 Anthony Christianson.
41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
43 deference. Thank you.
44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, the motion
46 passes.
47
48 Mr. Chair, that brings us to Wildlife
49 Proposal 20-40.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll call on
2 the Staff to present, thank you.

3
4 MS. MAAS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair,
5 members of the Board. For the record this is Lisa Maas
6 and I'll be presenting a summary of the analysis for
7 Wildlife Proposal WP20-40, which begins on Page 1053 of
8 your meeting book.

9
10 Proposal WP20-40 was submitted by the
11 Seward Peninsula Council and requests closing moose
12 hunting in Unit 22D remainder to non-Federally-
13 qualified users. The proponent is concerned about cow
14 moose harvest in Unit 22D remainder due to a declining
15 moose population and states that closing Federal public
16 lands to non-Federally-qualified users would help
17 conserve the moose population and allow subsistence
18 users to meet their needs.

19
20 Federal public lands in Unit 22D
21 remainder was close to non-Federally-qualified users in
22 2002 to improve subsistence harvest opportunities and
23 to help conserve the moose population. The Board
24 eliminated this closure in 2007 because of improvement
25 in the Unit 22D moose population and bull/cow ratios.

26
27 Relevant biological and harvest
28 information was already provided during the
29 presentation of WP20-38.

30
31 Due to regulatory actions taken by the
32 State, as well as actions just taken by the Board on
33 WP20-38 adopting WP20-40 may slightly reduce
34 competition from non-local resident hunters so it'd
35 likely do little to conserve the Unit 22D moose
36 population for several reasons.

37
38 First, only eight percent of the Unit
39 22D remainder hunt area is Federal public lands.

40
41 Second, the State established a harvest
42 quota for Unit 22D remainder, which limits harvest to
43 sustainable levels.

44
45 Third, the non-resident season is
46 already closed under State regulations.

47
48 Fourth, Federally-qualified subsistence
49 users account for 74 percent of the moose harvest in
50

1 Unit 22D remainder, and harvest by non-local residents
2 will likely decline as a result of Proposal 35, which
3 limits permit availability.

4
5 Fifth, State Proposal 33 and WP20-38
6 eliminate the October season when 59 percent of the
7 moose harvest occurred on average when bull moose a
8 most susceptible to harvest.

9
10 Finally, since the RM840 permit was
11 required in other Unit 22 hunt areas in 2004, the
12 numbers of hunters in Unit 22D remainder has nearly
13 tripled. Requiring the RM840 permit in Unit 22D
14 remainder will likely decrease hunting numbers in that
15 area redistributing them to other road accessible hunt
16 areas.

17
18 The OSM conclusion is to oppose WP20-
19 40.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
24 Staff, for that presentation. Any questions for Staff.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing, none,
29 we'll open the floor to summary of public comment,
30 Regional Council Coordinator.

31
32 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
33 members of the Board. Katya Wessels with OSM. We
34 received no written public comments for WP20-40.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
39 We'll open up the floor at this time to public
40 testimony, anybody on line.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing no
45 one on line.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
48 We'll call on Regional Advisory Council recommendation,
49 Chair or designee.

50

1 MR. GREEN: Oops, hit the wrong button
2 there, so, sorry Mr. Chair. The Council voted
3 unanimously to support Wildlife Proposal 20-40. The
4 Council had submitted this proposal to protect the
5 moose population of Unit 22D remainder by eliminating
6 non-local harvest while still allowing harvest by
7 Federally-qualified users in the region. The Council
8 noted that other subunits in Unit 22D is currently
9 closed to non-Federally-qualified users.

10

11 Thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Louis Green, for that.

15

16 MR. GREEN: Thanks for mentioning my
17 name.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. Any
20 questions for the Council Chair.

21

22 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, Bureau of
23 Indian Affairs.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
26 have the floor.

27

28 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Yeah, Louis, Gene, with BIA here. So the recent Board
30 of Game action where they adopted Proposal 33 which
31 established the harvest quota of 18 bull moose for 22D
32 remainder which greatly limits the potential harvest in
33 this area, do you feel that that action by the Board of
34 Game would address the Seward Penn Regional Advisory
35 Council's current concern about conservation?

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. GREEN: Yes, through the Chair.
40 Yes, Gene. Thanks for the question.

41

42 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you, Louis,
43 appreciate that.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
46 questions for the Regional Chair.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
2 thank you, Louis. We'll move on to Tribal/Alaska
3 Native Corporation comments, Native Liaison.

4
5 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Orville Lind, Native Liaison, Office of Subsistence
7 Management. During the consultation session there was
8 no comments made on WP20-40.

9
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Orville. Next we'll call on the State, Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game comments, State Liaison.

15
16 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
18 and Game. The Department is opposed to this proposal
19 given the action that was recently taken on WP20-38.
20 We feel that that action was a prudent step toward
21 addressing the concerns regarding this moose
22 population.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
27 We'll move to InterAgency Staff Committee comment, ISC
28 Chair.

29
30 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 The InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
32 comment for WP20-40.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
35 Board discussion with Council Chair and State Liaison.

36
37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
41 we'll open the floor for Federal Board action on this
42 proposal.

43
44 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett
45 with BLM.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
48 floor, Chad.

49
50

1 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I move to
2 adopt WP20-40 as submitted by the Seward Peninsula
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. This proposal
4 is shown on Page 2053 of the Board book. Following a
5 second I will explain why I intend to oppose this
6 motion.

7

8 MR. PELTOLA: BIA seconds.

9

10 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Gene. My
11 justification is the following: Given the Board of
12 Game's recent action, this proposal would likely do
13 little to conserve the moose population due to low
14 percent of Federal public lands in the area. The
15 State's harvest quota greatly limits harvest. The
16 State's non-resident season is closed. The majority of
17 the subsistence harvest is by Federally-qualified
18 subsistence users. The new State permitting
19 requirements for 22D will likely distribute hunters to
20 other areas.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Chad. Any other Board discussion, deliberation.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Move to roll
30 call, Tom, thank you.

31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 This is Proposal WP20-40 that requests the Federal
34 public lands in Unit 22D remainder be closed to moose
35 hunting except by Federally-qualified subsistence
36 users.

37

38 I'll start with the National Park
39 Service, Don Striker.

40

41 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. The National
42 Park Service supports 20-40 in deference to the Seward
43 Peninsula RAC and our understanding of broad local
44 support.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
49 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
2 oppose as I concur with the Bureau of Land Management
3 and the Office of Subsistence Management justifications
4 oppose the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee
5 request in light of the recent regulatory changes and
6 in response, as we just heard from the Chair, that this
7 should satisfy the conservation concern.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.

12
13 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
14 Padgett.

15
16 MR. PADGETT: I support as stated,
17 thank you. I'm sorry, I oppose as stated, sorry about
18 that.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I almost caught
21 you.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you very
26 much.

27
28 U.S. Forest Service, Dave Schmid.

29
30 MR. SCHMID: You had me all confused
31 there Chad. The Forest Service is going to support
32 WP20-40 primarily in deference to the RAC as well as
33 OSM supports this proposal.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
38 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

39
40 MR. PELTOLA: The Bureau of Indian
41 Affairs opposes WP20-40 based on the Chair of the
42 Seward Penn Regional Advisory Council's thinking that
43 the conservation concerns have been addressed by the
44 Board of Game during their January 2020 meeting, the
45 actions taken, in addition to Federal public lands only
46 constitute eight percent of this subunit and the Bureau
47 feels a coordinated approach with the Alaska Department
48 of Fish and Game might better address any remaining
49 conservation and subsistence user concerns.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
4
5 Rhonda Pitka.
6
7 MS. PITKA: I support in deference to
8 the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council. Thank
9 you.
10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
12
13 Chairman Anthony Christianson.
14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
16 deference to the RAC.
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: The motion passes.
19
20 MS. PITKA: Did Charlie Brower make it
21 back on line?
22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: No, Charlie is not back
24 on line Rhonda.
25
26 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA. May I
27 make a comment?
28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Gene,
30 you have the floor.
31
32 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
33 here's an example where I think the public members of
34 the Board are under represented. As an agency Board
35 member we have ISC members that could back us up in our
36 absence and vote on our behalf, and that -- I think the
37 Board should look at a similar policy to address that
38 for the public members as well.
39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
43 that statement, Gene, appreciate it.
44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, Mr. Chair, we're
46 moving on to Wildlife Proposal WP20-41.
47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll call on
49 the Staff to present that to us, thank you.
50

1 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 members of the Board. This is Hannah Voorhees, I'm an
3 anthropologist with OSM. I will be presenting Wildlife
4 Proposal 20-41 and 20-42. Both pertain to rescinding
5 Federal public land closures in 22A and share
6 background biology and regulatory history. So I will
7 address the shared elements in this presentation and
8 forego them in the next. Wildlife Proposal 20-41
9 begins on Page 1070 of your Board book.

10

11 This proposal was submitted by Lance
12 Kronberger of Eagle River, and requests that the
13 Federal public land closure for moose in the portion of
14 Unit 22 north of, and including the Tagoomenik and
15 Shaktoolik River drainages which is also known as 22A
16 north be rescinded September 1st to September 20th to
17 coincide with the State's non-resident moose season.

18

19 The proponent states that the closure
20 serves to concentrate all moose hunting on to a small
21 area of State managed lands and that rescinding the
22 closure would reduce conflicts in the field. The Board
23 considered this same proposal during the last
24 regulatory cycle. At that time Federal public lands in
25 22A north were closed to the harvest of moose except by
26 residents of 22A. In 2018 the Board adopted the
27 previous version of this proposal with modification
28 expanding moose hunting opportunity on Federal public
29 lands in 22A north to all residents of Unit 22, that
30 is, those with C&T in Unit 22 for moose. This was an
31 incremental liberalization that stopped short of
32 opening 22A north to non-Federally-qualified users.

33

34 Also of note, in January of 2017 the
35 Board of Game added six days to what had previously
36 been a 14 day non-resident hunt.

37

38 No new biological information has
39 become available since the Board's expansion of the
40 user pool in 2018. Management decisions for moose
41 throughout 22A including 22A north have typically been
42 based on data from 22A central, the Unalakleet drainage
43 area. A most recent population survey of 22A central
44 from 2017 estimated that there are 840 moose in that
45 area, that estimate is above the State's population
46 objective of 600 to 800 moose. The population grew at
47 a rate of nine percent annually between 2012 and 2017.
48 However, this is still a low density population at just
49 .35 moose per square mile. In 2017, recruitment was 12

50

1 percent, which was the lowest in about decade.
2 However, local biologists characterize this recruitment
3 as adequate. As of 2016 the bull/cow ratio is very
4 high at 124 bulls to 100 cows. The objective is 30
5 bulls to 100 cows.

6
7 Reported non-local harvest is low at
8 just one to two moose per year. Local harvest is
9 documented through harvest tickets and is likely under
10 reported. No local harvest was reported between 2016
11 and 2018. Shaktoolik, the only community located in
12 22A north primarily takes moose in August and
13 September, with efforts focused along the Shaktoolik
14 and Tagoomenik drainages. The most recent subsistence
15 survey from 2009 shows Shaktoolik harvesting eight
16 moose in that survey year.

17
18 Currently there are five guides
19 eligible to use this area if the closure is lifted.
20 BLM permits would be required for additional guides.
21 There is no cap on the number of transporters who could
22 operate in the area.

23
24 If this proposal is adopted, Federal
25 public lands in Unit 22A north will be open to all
26 users September 1st through September 20th. It is
27 uncertain what effects this will have on the moose
28 population in the area which remains low density. The
29 effect on Federally-qualified subsistence users is also
30 uncertain. There is no updated subsistence survey
31 research to show whether local residents are meeting
32 their needs for moose. Opening Federal public lands
33 may reduce user conflicts by decentralizing use by
34 guided hunters who access the area via aircraft,
35 however, opening Federal public lands could also result
36 in increased competition and conflict with both non-
37 local residents and non-resident hunters along the
38 Shaktoolik River where Federally-qualified subsistence
39 users have customarily focused their fall hunting.
40 Maintaining the status quo until additional information
41 is available reflecting recent incremental management
42 decisions by the Board and the State will assure that
43 subsistence use continues to be prioritized.

44
45 The OSM conclusion is to oppose
46 Wildlife Proposal 20-41.

47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 I'll standby for any questions.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
4 questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
9 hearing, none, we'll open the floor to summary of
10 public comment, Regional Council Coordinator.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
13 members of the Board. For the record, Katya Wessels
14 with OSM. And we did not receive any written public
15 comments for WP20-41.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Katya. We'll move to open the floor to any public who
21 may be on line that wants to testify to this proposal.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
26 we'll move on to the Regional Advisory Council
27 recommendation, Chair or designee.

28

29 OPERATOR: Sir, we do have someone who
30 has cued up, Lance Kronberger, their line is open.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
33 that Operator, appreciate it. Lance, you have the
34 floor.

35

36 MR. KRONBERGER: Can you guys here me
37 all right.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sounds good,
40 got you Lance, you have the floor.

41

42 MR. KRONBERGER: Thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman, members of the Board. I'll just give you
44 some history that I have in Unit 22A north.

45

46 I personally started hunting and
47 guiding in Unit 22A north in 2005. Since 2005 our
48 guide service has harvested close to 150 brown bears in
49 22A north. Over the past 10 years I have personally

50

1 observed a dramatic increase in the moose population
2 within 22A north.

3
4 In 2017 I submitted a proposal to the
5 Alaska Board of Game to extend the moose season from
6 September 1st through the 14th, to September 1st
7 through the 20th. The Board of Game expressed concern
8 about the increased non-resident harvest but concluded
9 that the high bull/cow ratio in the area provided
10 sufficient protection against overharvest. My proposal
11 was adopted.

12
13 Since 2017 the non-resident harvest has
14 remained the same as it was before 2017.

15
16 In 2018 I submitted Proposal WP18-38, I
17 requested that the Federal public land closures for
18 non-qualified moose hunting in Unit 22A north be
19 rescinded. Although the Board adopted the proposal
20 with modification, it was not adopted as I had
21 originally intended.

22
23 In 2005 our guide service started
24 guiding brown bears in 22A north. We have put a lot of
25 energy and resource into harvesting large male brown
26 bears, many of which are moose calf killers. We have
27 seen bears kill moose -- we have killed bears while
28 they are stalking moose calves, pursuing moose calves
29 and even eating moose calves. Since 2014 we have
30 harvested 57 brown bears in 22A north. We have seen a
31 constant increase in the moose population within 22A
32 north. I believe at least some of this increase can be
33 contributed to the number of brown bears that have been
34 removed from the 22A north population. A large portion
35 of our brown bear hunts take place on Federal public
36 lands, which we access via aircraft. We hunt these
37 lands for approximately a month in the spring and a
38 month in the fall. It is extremely rare that we ever
39 see any other users on these Federal public lands due
40 to the difficulty in accessing these very remote
41 places.

42
43 During our years of guiding, spring and
44 fall brown bear hunters in 22A north, we have kept
45 track of the moose we observe in our many days glassing
46 the river bottoms, alder patches and tundra hillside.
47 In the last 10 years we have observed a doubling of the
48 moose population. We spend over 100 man days every
49 year, both spring and fall, inventorying the wildlife
50

1 in Unit 22A north. We have observed a dramatic
2 increase in calf survival from the spring observations
3 to our fall sightings. The last couple of years we
4 have noticed almost 50 percent of the cow moose have at
5 least one calf during the fall sightings. Because our
6 spring brown bear hunting season takes place from mid-
7 May through mid-June, we are able to tell the
8 difference between cow moose and bull moose. By mid-
9 May the bulls have enough horn growth to determine what
10 sex they are. With the increase in moose sightings we
11 have also observed a noticeable increase in bull moose
12 numbers. Over the last couple of years we have
13 observed a greater than one bull per cow within 22A
14 north.

15
16 The Board of Game extended the moose
17 season September 1st through the 14th to September 1st
18 through the 20th, there was expressed concern that the
19 extended season would allow a huge increase in non-
20 resident harvest. I explained the difficulty of
21 accessing the area along with the guiding dynamics that
22 occur in 22A north, prior to 2017 the average non-
23 resident moose harvest was less than two per year, and
24 since the season extension by Board of Game, the non-
25 resident harvest had stayed less than two per year.
26 This increased moose harvest was also expressed concern
27 by the Federal Subsistence Board on my 2018 proposal
28 that they adopted with modification allowing for all
29 residents of Unit 22 to hunt Federal lands. There was
30 concern that there was going to be increased harvest
31 from opening Federal lands, and after two hunting
32 seasons there has not been any increased harvest -- any
33 increased resident harvest within Unit 22A. This is
34 because of access. The main access routes in 22A north
35 are already open to non-qualified hunters, they are the
36 Shaktoolik and the Niukluk Rivers. Unless you have a
37 very good Bush pilot with an aircraft, the Federal
38 lands within 22A north are inaccessible. This Federal
39 land closure to non-qualified users does nothing more
40 than concentrate Federally-qualified residents, non-
41 qualified residents and guided non-residents all along
42 the same travel corridors. This area can sustain some
43 increased harvest along with allowing people with
44 different methods of access to spread out. The last
45 five years of antler spread for non-resident moose
46 harvest in 22A north was 68 inches. This statistic
47 demonstrates the older age class bulls that are
48 targeted by the non-resident hunters. Many of these
49 bulls very well could be past their prime breeding age
50

1 and no longer a benefit to the moose population.

2

3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
4 notes that there is a very high bull to cow ratio
5 within 22A, 124 bulls per 100 cows, this allowing for
6 more bull harvest, especially the older aged class
7 bulls that non-resident hunters target.

8

9 OSM cautions that by lifting the
10 Federal land restrictions there would be an increased
11 guide use. Board of Game cautioned that there may be
12 the same increase when they extended the season. And
13 that did not happen. If guides offer moose hunts in
14 22A, they most likely will be offering guided moose
15 hunts in 22A right now. This is because the best
16 access is already available in guided non-resident
17 hunters. The lower portions of the Shaktoolik and
18 Niukluk Rivers both are surrounded by State selected
19 lands where there is good access and good moose
20 hunting. As a matter of fact, most of the useable
21 stretches of rivers for local hunters are the same
22 stretches of river that are accessible to non-resident
23 hunters. If the restrictions were to be lifted on
24 Federal lands, the local hunters would probably see
25 less competition as it would give the current users an
26 opportunity to use different methods to access remote
27 parts of Unit 22A north.

28

29 Each year I spend two months working
30 out of Unalakleet, Alaska. Unalakleet is a wonderful
31 community and I have many life long friends there. Our
32 operation works very hard at being conscious of the
33 local traditions, along with making sure we are an
34 asset to the community. Our operation rents a house
35 from a local resident, buys most of our supplies at the
36 local stores, and eats many meals at the local
37 restaurants along with hiring the local air taxi.
38 Along with being part of the local economy, we work
39 very hard to donate meat to local residents. Our hunt
40 contract only allows guided moose hunters to take home
41 backstraps and tenderloins from their moose harvest,
42 the rest of the meat gets donated to the local
43 residents. In a lot of cases we personally transport
44 and donate the moose meat to the local households. And
45 in other cases there are people within the community
46 who knows of families and elders that could use the
47 moose meat and they make sure they're all taken care
48 of. I have letters from the Unalakleet residents
49 stating to our contributions to the community.

50

1 At the end of the day there is no
2 reason that Federal lands within 22A north should be
3 closed for non-qualified users, there is no legitimate
4 conservation concerns as documented by the Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game, and our personal
6 observations. There is actually greater evidence to
7 open Federal lands to reduce the possibility of in the
8 field conflict and spread out the harvest all over 22A
9 north. By concentrating all the harvest into just a
10 few river corridors, it's not the best way to manage
11 the moose population within 22A north. Opening Federal
12 lands to non-qualified users needs to be a win-win for
13 everyone and it can be. The non-qualified hunters that
14 we guide are looking for a great experience in wild and
15 remote places like 22A north. They are looking to
16 pursue an old age-class moose, which 22A north has a
17 surplus of and have an opportunity to take home a set
18 of antlers, cape and 50 pounds of moose meat. They do
19 not want to take all the meat that comes with
20 harvesting a large bull moose, nor would I allow them
21 to take all the meat. Donating the meat to locals is
22 enjoyed, not only by the one who receives, but also by
23 the hunter who gets to see the gratitude the local
24 community expresses.

25
26 The guided non-resident hunter just
27 wants an experience and an opportunity. They have no
28 problem with spending money in many of the small
29 communities. We have many hunters that buy scrimshaw
30 walrus tusks, fur hats, seal gloves, tanned hide, and
31 many other items that local sell. These items have
32 come from Shishmaref, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet and other
33 local communities. By continuing to close Federal
34 lands within Unit 22A north, many user groups and
35 communities will suffer. This closure does not prevent
36 non-qualified users the opportunity to harvest an old
37 age class moose, but also congregates hunters, keeps
38 moose meat from being donated to locals and money from
39 being spent in local communities.

40
41 These are all good reasons to remove
42 the non-qualified closure, but the main reason to allow
43 non-qualified hunters is because there's no biological
44 concern. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has stated
45 it, our observations have noted it and the recent age
46 harvest shows it. I urge you to remove the non-
47 qualified regulations to hunt moose in Unit 22A north.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 Anybody have any questions for Lance.

3
4 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, Bureau of
5 Indian Affairs.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, go ahead,
8 Gene, you have the floor.

9
10 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Mr. Kronberger, you submitted this proposal prior to
12 the Federal Subsistence Board, correct?

13
14 MR. KRONBERGER: Yes.

15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. And by submitting
17 the proposal and you're an active big game guide in
18 Alaska and so I assume you have a permit from the
19 Bureau of Land Management, correct?

20
21 MR. KRONBERGER: That is correct.

22
23 MR. PELTOLA: And is there any
24 stipulation or limitation on your guide concession
25 permit from BLM that limits you to either a number of
26 clients or number of moose harvested?

27
28 MR. KRONBERGER: On my permit I am --
29 I'm issued a 10 year permit and I state the number of
30 clients that I am taking for the number of species.
31 The BLM does not issue or tell me how many I can take,
32 but in my operation plan I need to tell them what I am
33 proposing.

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you much,
36 Sir, I appreciate it.

37
38 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, I have a
39 question for Lance.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

42
43 MR. GREEN: Lance, you're talking about
44 numbers, the last time in the last go around we went
45 through this back and forth, and what I want to know is
46 has Fish and Game done any aerial counts to date?

47
48 MR. KRONBERGER: Through the Chair. We
49 have asked Fish and Game to do counts in both 22A north
50

1 and 22A remainder and, you know, their response is it's
2 a big state and they have lots of places they need to
3 survey, these are low priority. We've even proposed to
4 do -- have our pilots have someone do it but that's not
5 allowed so as far as -- to my knowledge Fish and Game
6 has not done a survey and it's frustrating for all of
7 us because I would love to have a survey done as much
8 as everybody else but the fact of the matter is, I
9 think if it was the other way around and the moose
10 population was declining, and going the opposite way,
11 that the 22 central moose count that gets extrapolated
12 into these other areas would be used and be sufficient
13 to close things and it's frustrating that we cannot use
14 that data to open things back up.

15
16 MR. GREEN: Thank you for that answer,
17 through the Chair. Thanks.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
20 other additional questions for Lance.

21
22 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad
23 Padgett with BLM.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chad, you
26 have the floor.

27
28 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. Lance, just a
29 couple of quick questions here. Do you -- right now
30 with the Covid-19 issues, are you experiencing -- what
31 does your clientele look like this year, are you going
32 to be able to have any hunts? I'm just curious how
33 it's affected you so far.

34
35 MR. KRONBERGER: Yes, through the
36 Chair. It's had a dramatic affect on us. We run
37 spring bear hunts on Kodiak, the Alaska Peninsula and
38 out of Unalakleet, and as the restrictions state right
39 now we're out of business. So it is just -- the State
40 restrictions, as it is right now all my clients are
41 planning on coming this fall as long as the State
42 restrictions allow it. We've already tried to get
43 things in motion to be very, very conscious of the
44 local communities and how we're going to pretty much
45 try to avoid even landing there, chartering straight
46 from Anchorage to the field as much as possible. So I
47 am hopeful that we will be operating this fall but I am
48 also cautious that that might not happen.

49
50

1 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. And then
2 another question, back to your permit. When you're
3 issued a permit by our field Staff, I know it doesn't
4 necessarily have a limitation but do you have to
5 justify the take?
6

7 MR. KRONBERGER: Through the Chair. I
8 don't totally understand what it means by justify or
9 how I would justify. But I -- like I said, I was
10 issued a permit in 2005 and I've had a great, very,
11 very good working relationship with the BLM and they've
12 -- you know, if I state that I was going to take this
13 many bear hunters or this many moose hunters, there
14 hasn't been an issue and I haven't had to justify it.
15 I think we've tried to do a really good job of
16 harvesting older animals, both moose and brown bear,
17 and try to be very, very conscious of the conservation
18 concerns. Like I said, I've been in 22A north since
19 200 -- this is going on 15 years, you know, I spend a
20 lot of time sleeping in a tent out there, I don't want
21 to just go out there and make a mess, conservation-
22 wise, trying to make a quick dollar.
23

24 MR. PADGETT: Thank you.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
27

28 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, this is
29 Louis, I got dropped off the call right then when I --
30 I cut myself off there with Lance, so I just got back
31 on, just letting you know.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Louis, did you
34 have any more questions or discussion.
35

36 MR. GREEN: I was going to ask -- no, I
37 don't have anything right at the moment. I would like
38 to say -- tell, Lance, thanks for thinning the bears
39 out, that's a positive, but these numbers are
40 questionable as far as the moose counts there. The
41 State hasn't done anything.
42

43 Thank you.
44

45 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair.
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.
48

49 MS. WORKER: This is Suzanne Worker.
50

1 Before we move on from public comment, I would just
2 like to acknowledge that Mr. Kronberger submitted two
3 comments in support of his operation from residents of
4 Unalakleet, that occurred earlier this week. They were
5 not included in the summary because they just arrived,
6 but they were forwarded to the Board for their
7 consideration.

8

9

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,

12

Susan.

13

14

Any further discussion or questions.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,

19

thank you, Lance, appreciate you calling in.

20

21

MR. KRONBERGER: Thank you.

22

23

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is

24

there anybody else on line that would like to speak?

25

26

OPERATOR: Not at this time, Sir, no

27

others.

28

29

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

30

We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council

31

recommendation, Chair or designee.

32

33

MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This

34

is Louis Green from Seward Peninsula RAC. It's evident

35

that the State hasn't done any counts, and it continues

36

to be a minimal, or extrapolated information on moose

37

populations in portions of Unit 22A. Easy access by

38

non-local or guided aircraft hunters, two moose could

39

negatively impact subsistence users. It's -- the

40

thought of, if you got breeding bulls up in there and

41

they can't get to them, they're just adding to the

42

population. I heard what he said about too old to

43

breed, that's speculative. So some of the Council

44

members stated that the habitat where the moose

45

populations go for protection from harvest, and

46

frequently accessed by non-locals and aircraft.

47

Harvest in these areas could impair the herd's

48

opportunity to grow.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
4 Louis. Any questions for Louis from the Board.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
9 hearing none, we will move on to Tribal/Alaska Native
10 Corporation comments, Native Liaison.

11

12 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for Office of Subsistence
14 Management. During the consultation session there were
15 no comments made.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Orville. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments,
21 State Liaison.

22

23 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
25 and Game.

26

27 The Department does support this
28 proposal. We feel that this is not expected to pose a
29 biological concern to the local moose population in 22A
30 north. Considering the low combined reported harvest,
31 and estimated harvest in the area, the potential
32 increased harvest in Unit 22A north resulting from
33 approval of this proposal is unlikely to exceed the
34 harvestable surplus of moose in the area.

35

36 Hunting under State authority in Unit
37 22A north will require hunter effort and success
38 reporting, which it can always be used to better
39 understand moose abundance in the area.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
44 questions for the State.

45

46 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, this is Louis.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Louis, go
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. GREEN: Thank you. Through the
2 Chair, when is the State going to do an aerial survey,
3 do they have any plans for this? This has been a
4 contentious point here in this conversation we've been
5 having for the last few years, so I'm just curious on
6 what the State's position is on this.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair.
11 Louis, I don't know that answer off the top of your
12 [sic] head, we've done 22 central in 2017, and I'd have
13 to check with area Staff. We could have had it very
14 well planned this year but with Covid restrictions a
15 lot of our aerial surveys have gotten grounded so far.
16 But I will definitely check in with our area Staff and
17 get back to you and I will copy the appropriate Staff
18 for the Board to let everyone know.

19

20 MR. GREEN: Through the Chair. Thank
21 you. And, you know, it would make it a lot easier to
22 make these decisions if we have good information.
23 Right now we don't have good information. I'm not
24 trying to discredit the proposal maker, but -- and I
25 understand his experience in the field, but, still,
26 extrapolated numbers, you know, they don't add up to
27 moose meat. So it would really make sense to have some
28 sort of a survey done.

29

30 Thank you, appreciate your time.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep. Any
35 additional questions for the State.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
40 We'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee comment,
41 ISC Chair.

42

43 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 The InterAgency Staff Committee offers the standard
45 comment for WP20-41.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
48 move on to Board discussion with Council Chair and
49 State Liaison.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: With that we'll
4 open up the floor for Federal Board action.

5

6 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett
7 with BLM.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
10 floor, Chad.

11

12 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I'd like to
13 move to table this discussion, or this vote until
14 tomorrow. Considering the time right now, 4:48 p.m.,
15 in addition, I'd like to have a little more time to
16 confer with Staff.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We have a
19 motion right now to table WP20-40 [sic] to a later
20 date, can Chad get a second on that, I'm.....

21

22 MR. STRIKER: Is it 40 or 41.

23

24 MS. WORKER: 41.

25

26 MR. PADGETT: I'm sorry, 41.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, 41,
29 sorry, I'm -- WP20-41, sorry.

30

31 MR. PELTOLA: If BLM feels they need
32 more time to determine action, BIA would second the
33 motion to table it until tomorrow.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We have a
36 motion on the floor to table this until we can
37 construct a motion to a time to be determined later in
38 this meeting, which would be tomorrow. Any opposition
39 to that proposed motion?

40

41 (No opposition)

42

43 MR. SCHMID: This is Dave. No
44 opposition but would like to take it up first thing in
45 the morning, if we could stay with the agenda.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I think
48 both of those would be probably adequate if we -- we
49 have two we tabled and maybe those could be the first

50

1 things we pick up in the morning.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: This is Greg with the
4 Fish and Wildlife Service, I would agree with that. I
5 think that we should take up both of those immediately
6 in the morning.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Well, I
9 think, you know, we still have 10 minutes to 5:00, I
10 think, you know, we've been pushing it pretty hard
11 today, we've taken minimal breaks, I think I'm going to
12 call it for the day, if I'm not hearing any opposition.

13

14 MR. SIEKANIEC: No opposition, Mr.
15 Chair.

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair.

18

19 MS. PITKA: I support that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
22 Tom.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. Could we
25 just have a vote on the tabling until tomorrow for
26 WP41, please.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, yeah, I
29 thought I called that if there was no opposition that
30 the motion carries unanimously, so I heard no
31 discontent.

32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, so for the
36 record there is no opposition to the motion to table on
37 WP20-41 until tomorrow so we could frame the motion.

38

39 So we will be taking up those two
40 tabled motions in the morning when we reconvene at 9:00
41 a.m.

42

43 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you guys
46 have a good day.

47

48 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, have a good evening and everybody have a good night, see you tomorrow.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, see you in the morning.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Including Staff.

MS. PITKA: Good night.

(Off record)

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
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